

Thatcher to meet union officials

LONDON (AP) — Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher has agreed to meet Britain's top labour union official to discuss the nation's bitter coal strike, which entered its 30th week Monday. It will be the first time that the prime minister has intervened openly in efforts to end the strike, which was launched over plans by the state-run National Coal Board to close 20 unprofitable mines and shed 20,000 jobs. Word of the planned meeting followed a British Broadcasting Corporation report that the miners' union had made new concessions. Mrs. Thatcher's official 10 Downing St. office said she would meet Tuesday morning with a labour delegation led by Norman Willis, general secretary of the 10 million-member Trades Union Congress labour federation, shortly before she leaves on an official visit to the United States.



Beirut bomb kills 6, injures 20

BEIRUT (R) — A car bomb exploded Monday in a Shi'ite Muslim suburb of Beirut, killing six people and wounding 20, security sources said. The blast wrecked several cars and devastated nearby buildings, they added. The bomb went off about 50 metres from an office of the Shi'ite Amal movement, but Amal sources said none of the members was injured. Police said the Mercedes Benz, packed with what police estimated was 35 to 40 kilograms of explosives, was parked about two metres from the three-storey building. The blast set several other cars ablaze and heavily damaged two adjacent six- or seven-storey apartment buildings. It broke windows in buildings up to a block and a half away.

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Jordanian fighter pilot dies in crash

AMMAN (Petra) — A Jordanian fighter plane crashed and its pilot was killed Monday, a spokesman for the Army Headquarters said. The spokesman said the pilot, Hisham Mohammad Ali, took off at 1300 local time in a training mission and was killed instantly when his plane hit the ground. The spokesman did not give the reason for the crash.

Masri meets former U.S. aide

AMMAN (Petra) — Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri Monday received former U.S. Under-Secretary of State for Middle East Affairs Harold Saunders. Mr. Saunders arrived here Monday morning on a three-day visit to Jordan during which he will meet with a number of officials to get acquainted with the latest developments in the region.

Arabsat reaches final orbit

RIYADH (Petra) — Arabsat I, the first Arab communications satellite, reached its final orbit Sunday night, Arabsat Board of Directors President Faisal Zaidan said Monday. He said a snag in the opening of the satellite wings was encountered but was later successfully resolved. He said the main receiving antenna of the satellite was expected to be extended late Monday and commissioning tests would start in accordance to a pre-set programme.

Brunei, Jordan to set up embassies

AMMAN (Petra) — The Sultanate of Brunei and Jordan will establish diplomatic relations at ambassadorial level, simultaneous announcements in Amman and Brunei said Monday. It said that the decision to establish diplomatic ties was taken during a visit to Jordan by the Sultan of Brunei in December 1984. The two countries also decided to launch cooperation between them in all fields in the interest of their peoples, the announcement added.

Israelis ban men from 5 W. Bank villages to travel to East Bank

AMMAN (Petra) — Israeli occupation authorities have banned residents of the besieged villages of Nahalen, Artas, Al Khader, Hosan and Beteir near Bethlehem from crossing into the East Bank of Jordan although they had valid passes, according to reports received here Monday.

Hassan II names new foreign minister

MARRAKECH, Morocco (AP) — King Hassan II abruptly fired his foreign minister, Abdelouahed Belkiz, early Monday and appointed Abdelatif Filali, one of Morocco's most experienced diplomats, to replace him. The king's announcement, within hours of a meeting with Senegal's President Abdou Diouf, was seen among foreign diplomatic observers as a disgrace for Mr. Belkiz, who had been in charge of the foreign ministry since November 1983.

INSIDE

- * Syria seeks to withdraw 12,000 troops from Lebanon, page 2
- * Hassan calls for objective studies on Islamic judiciary system, page 3
- * Rami G. Khouri reviews Israeli pullout, page 4
- * Soviet Union gets more food — at a price, page 5
- * Mayotte wins Players tennis title, page 6
- * OPEC nears ruling on Iraqi-Syrian pipeline dispute, page 7
- * U.S. quits ANZUS defence talks, page 8

Hezbollah leads protests against Gemayel

Fundamentalists go on rampage through Sidon

SIDON, South Lebanon (Agencies) — Thousands of Muslim fundamentalists from Beirut backed by hundreds of armed men poured into Sidon Monday, smashing liquor stores and demonstrating against President Amin Gemayel.

Shouting slogans against Mr. Gemayel, Israeli and the Lebanese army, they flooded into the main square of the main South Lebanon city for a noisy two-hour demonstration demanding establishment of an Islamic republic. Troops who took over Sidon when the Israeli army withdrew southwards on Saturday appeared powerless to establish order.

At one army checkpoint, outnumbered troops tried to stop demonstrators who surrounded them and tore down Lebanon's national flag. Soldiers took back the flag and replaced it, but the demonstrators again tore it down, eyewitnesses quoted by Reuters said.

The eyewitnesses estimated the fundamentalists at between 10,000 and 12,000, including 3,000 chanting women.

The Lebanese army, which had moved into South Lebanon's largest city Saturday to take control from Israeli forces, made no move to stop the rampage by members of the radical "Hezbollah" (Party of God), and other groups.

The several thousand demonstrators listened to speeches calling for an Islamic republic in Lebanon and chanted Allah Akbar and "Sidon is Muslim. It cannot be ruled by a Maronite."

Though many among the crowd carried AK-47 assault rifles or rocket grenade launchers, no shooting was reported.

The protesters tore down hundreds of small Lebanese flags put up to welcome the army, plastered posters of Iran's Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini over those of Mr. Gemayel, and painted slogans throughout the city.

One, signed Hezbollah, said "Death to Israel." Another, unsigned and painted on the sidewalk in front of the city's main mosque, said: "A curse on the Jews and the Gemayels."

Escorted by gunmen with automatic rifles and grenade launchers, groups of demonstrators rampaged through the streets, storming into five stores to smash liquor bottles.

It was the first show of force by gunmen in Sidon since the Israeli army left on Saturday and the Lebanese army peacefully took over the city amid popular jubilation.

The demonstrators, mainly from west Beirut's poor Muslim suburbs, also carried hundreds of placards of Lebanese Muslim figures.

Slogans also derided Sunday's visit by Mr. Gemayel, who was carried shoulder high in triumph with Prime Minister Rashid Karami during a touting welcome to Sidon.

Shops closed hurriedly and residents retreated to their homes as the fundamentalists took over the streets from 10 a.m. (0800 GMT) until late afternoon. Troops stayed at their posts but did not intervene.

Demonstrators proclaimed allegiance to "Hezbollah", a Shi'ite movement preaching fundamentalism and the virtues of martyrdom, and to other Shi'ite and Sunni fundamentalist groups.

The mainstream Shi'ite Muslim "Amal" movement, which backs maintenance of a multi-confessional state, held a separate demonstration to welcome Sidon's liberation from Israeli control.

Amal demonstrators shouted nationalist, not Islamic slogans, and Beirut Radio said Amal sources condemned the fundamentalist bottle-smashing rampage.

It said Amal urged authorities "to assume their full responsibilities in these critical circumstances" and asked all factions to refrain from acts "that may compromise the liberation of the rest of the south."

The city's Muslim and Christian figures last week issued a joint statement that prohibited the appearance of any armed militiamen on the streets after the Israeli withdrawal and called for cooperation with Lebanese army to take control of Sidon.

Statements over the weekend from two important groups however contrasted with the outward show of reconciliation after 10 years of civil war.

Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) leader Walid Junblatt said Sunday all groups would overturn Mr. Gemayel's "despotic and hated regime," while the "Hezbollah" pledged a peaceful establishment of Iranian-style Islamic revolutionary rule.

Sidon faces huge task of reconstruction; Israel preparing next phase of pullout, page 2

Gunmen burn Arab bus near Ramallah

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Masked gunmen, presumably Jewish terrorists, stopped a bus carrying Palestinian workers in the occupied West Bank on Monday, ordered passengers and driver out and then set fire to the vehicle, military sources quoted by the Associated Press said.

In a West Bank village near Ramallah, Palestinians blocked a road and raised a Palestinian flag to protest the late-night deportation of a former commander for Fatah, the military arm of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), the sources said, speaking on condition they were not identified (See page 2).

Israeli Radio reported the two passengers and driver were not injured in the bus burning incident, which occurred in the village of Adha, 10 kilometres southwest of Hebron. The radio reported three gunmen were involved.

The Israeli military spokesman's office had no further information on the incident.

Jewish settlers have accused the Israeli occupation authorities of failing to vigorously punish Palestinian attackers in the West Bank and have threatened they may take action themselves.

In Beitin, a village of 1,000 about four kilometres northeast of Ramallah, Palestinians protesting the deportation of Abdul Aziz Ali Shaheen were dispersed by security forces, said the sources, who spoke on condition that they were not identified. No injuries were reported.

Mr. Shaheen, former commander of Fatah forces, was deported from the occupied Gaza Strip to Lebanon on Sunday night.

Rabbi Moshe Levinger, the militant leader of the Gush Emunim (block of faithful) settlers in the occupied West Bank, was ending a three-month vigil outside the Dheish Palestinian refugee camp on the outskirts of Bethlehem.

Rabbi Levinger, who has lived out of an orange van parked along the highway from the refugee camp, said he was leaving Monday night because he was persuaded that the military authorities would toughen "security measures" in the West Bank.

Ali plans to seek advice from Assad on hostages

BEIRUT (R) — Former world boxing champion Mohammad Ali is planning to go to Damascus to seek advice from Syrian President Hafez Al Assad on securing the release of four kidnapped Americans and a Saudi Arabian diplomat.



JUDICIAL ISSUES: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan the Regent Monday discusses judicial affairs with Chief Islamic Justice Mohammad Mheilan (left) during a meeting at the Islamic court of appeal Diwan (see story on page 3)

Obeidat: Jordan-PLO accord is based on land for peace formula

AMMAN (J.T.) — The agreement reached last Monday between Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) on a formula for common action towards a solution to the Palestinian problem is based on the concept of land in exchange of peace, Prime Minister Ahmad Obeidat has said.

Mr. Obeidat also reaffirmed that the agreement "serves the common interests of both the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples and is designed to help the Palestinians to fulfil their aspirations."

The prime minister, who was speaking at a meeting Sunday night with directors of information departments and editors of local newspapers said that the agreement is based on proposals presented by His Majesty King Hussein to the Palestine National Council (PNC) in November, which are based on the worldwide accepted principles that call for a total withdrawal of Israeli forces from the occupied Arab territories including Jerusalem in exchange for a comprehensive peace and the recognition of the rights of the Palestinian people to self-determination within the framework of a confederation have been put forward in the spirit of the Fez Arab summit and U.N. resolutions on the Middle East issue," he said.

The best means to implement



Prime Minister Ahmad Obeidat (third from right), Acting Information Minister Taher Hikmat (to Mr. Obeidat's right) and Ministry of Information Under-Secretary Michel Hamarneh (second from left) Sunday hold talks with Jordan Journalists Association President and Al Ra'i Chief Editor Mahmoud Al Kayed (third from left), Radio Jordan Director General Nasouh Al Majali (left), Al Dastour Managing Editor Abdul Salam Al Tarawneh (second from right) and columnist Tareq Masarweh and other leading media personnel in Jordan (Petra photo)

the proposals is an international conference on the Middle East, which should be attended by all concerned parties, including the PLO in its capacity as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, within a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation," Mr. Obeidat said.

During Sunday's meeting, which was attended by Acting Minister of Information Taher Hikmat and Ministry of Information Under-Secretary, Michel Hamarneh, the prime minister also spoke about the circumstances surrounding the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement, referring to its positive impact and indications and explaining that it

will no doubt help achieve the objectives of both parties in supporting the steadfastness of the Arab people under Israeli rule and fulfilling their aspirations.

Mr. Obeidat presented his views about steps to be taken in the course of the implementation of the agreement saying that the future will witness moves on the Arab and international arenas to explain the accord and its far-reaching objectives. Also, he said, measures will be taken to employ the agreement as a positive element helping international efforts designed to bring about a just and comprehensive settlement to the Palestine problem.

The remaining five countries — Iraq, Libya, Algeria, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates — have not carried out their pledges in full.

The 1978 summit also promised similar aid to Syria, Lebanon and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

ican has refused to establish diplomatic relations with Israel.

The Israeli prime minister's meeting will come just four days after leaders of the American Jewish Committee asked the pontiff to establish diplomatic ties with Israel.

Official Vatican sources say no early move towards formal recognition is anticipated, although the Vatican supports Israel's right to exist.

During his three-day trip to Rome, Mr. Peres will meet with Italian President Sandro Pertini, Foreign Minister Andreotti as well as Premier Bettino Craxi.

Mr. Peres delayed the official visit to Italy, which was to have taken place last month. The three-day visit was rescheduled after a top Israeli Foreign Ministry official flew to Rome.

Peres arrives in Italy for talks on Mideast, Vatican-Israel ties

ROME (R) — Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres arrived here Monday to discuss prospects for Middle East peace negotiations during three days of talks with Italian leaders.

King sends message to Iraqi leader

AMMAN (J.T.) — Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri left for Baghdad Monday to brief Iraqi leaders on last week's agreement between Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) on a formula for common action toward solving the Palestinian problem.

The Jordanian News Agency, Petra, said Mr. Masri was carrying a message on the agreement to Iraqi President Saddam Hussein from His Majesty King Hussein.

Jordan is seeking Arab support for the agreement, which is based on United Nations resolutions and the Fez Arab summit plan, according to officials.

Canada welcomes Jordan-PLO accord, official says, page 3

S. Arabia pays first instalment of '85 aid to Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — Saudi Arabia has paid the first instalment for 1985 of its annual aid to Jordan under an Arab financial commitment to countries confronting Israel, the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, said Monday.

The agency, which quoted Finance Ministry Under-Secretary Abdul Majed Qasem as making the announcement, gave no figures, but Saudi Arabia and six other Arab oil-producing states agreed at the 1978 Arab summit in Baghdad to extend \$1.25 billion to Jordan over 10 years.

The Saudi share amounts to \$358 million. Kuwait has paid regularly, although at 40 per cent below the agreed level as a result of a shortfall in income from oil exports.

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The 1978 summit also promised similar aid to Syria, Lebanon and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Peres arrives in Italy for talks on Mideast, Vatican-Israel ties

ROME (R) — Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres arrived here Monday to discuss prospects for Middle East peace negotiations during three days of talks with Italian leaders.

They are expected to focus on fresh peace moves resulting from last week's agreement between Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to form a joint team in future negotiations and Israel's withdrawal from southern Lebanon.

Italy's Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti Sunday welcomed the Jordanian-PLO accord.

Mr. Peres will also meet Pope John Paul during his visit to Rome before flying to Romania for talks with President Nicolae Ceausescu.

Officials said Italian leaders would be looking for common ground for peace negotiations in the talks with Mr. Peres and forthcoming contacts with U.S. officials.

Mr. Peres will be the first Israeli premier since Golda Meir in 1973 to have a papal audience. It is expected to focus on the prospects for Middle East peace and Israel's claims on Jerusalem.

Last April, the Pope issued an apostolic letter calling for a "just solution" based on international guarantees to protect the interests of both Arabs and Jews in the sacred city.

Israel annexed the Arab sector of Jerusalem after occupying it in the 1967 Middle East war. Israel has maintained that the city's political status as the Jewish state's "undivided capital" was non-negotiable.

The Jerusalem issue is believed to be the main reason why the Vatican has refused to establish diplomatic relations with Israel.

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Egypt urges U.S. to reconsider aid to Sudan

CAIRO (AP) — President Hosni Mubarak said Monday the United States made a mistake in withholding economic aid to Sudan and urged Washington to reconsider.

Mr. Mubarak told reporters he plans to discuss the U.S. decision, reported by the State Department on Monday, with Sudanese President Jaafar Numeiri and will then take it up with American leaders in Washington next month.

"We should help him (Mr. Numeiri)," President Mubarak said. "The United States should help. They shouldn't withdraw aid from Sudan. I think it is a mistake. They (Americans) are living

3,000 kilometres away from Sudan. How could they understand the situation in Sudan better than (Mr. Numeiri)? That is why we are urging the United States not to stop this aid or delay it."

A State Department spokeswoman said the U.S. administration is delaying payment of economic aid to Sudan and indicated this was due to Washington's dissatisfaction with Mr. Numeiri's economic reform programme. But the spokeswoman said Sudan recently took "encouraging steps" toward creating conditions that could free U.S. funds (See page 2).

She gave no figures, but the Washington Post said the amount withheld was \$194 million.

"I just heard it today (Monday)," Mr. Mubarak said of the U.S. decision. "I am going to discuss it with Sudan and then it will be a topic to discuss with the United States. I think it is better not to hold anything from Sudan."

Mr. Mubarak is scheduled to visit Washington in the second week of March.

Sudan is Egypt's closest ally in the Arab world. The two neighbouring countries are linked by a 1976 joint defence pact and a 1982 "integration charter" calling for close political, economic, social and cultural coordination.

Syria seeks to withdraw 12,000 troops from Lebanon

BEIRUT (R) — Syrian Information Minister Yassin Rajouh said in a newspaper interview published Monday, two days after Israeli forces quit part of South Lebanon, that Damascus wanted to withdraw 12,000 of its troops from Lebanon.

"We would like under proper and suitable conditions to bring back 12,000 Syrian soldiers from Lebanon," Rajouh told the Beirut Daily As Safir. He did not say whether this comprised all or part of Syrian forces in Lebanon.

He said the men were needed for other duties in Syria "if the Lebanese can assure their own salvation."

"It is not possible for Syrian troops to re-assume security duties (in Lebanon)," Mr. Rajouh said. "We are in need of our forces. We have long borders starting from Turkey and ending in the Golan Heights."

Syrian troops, previously estimated at 30,000 men, are stationed in north Lebanon and in

the eastern Bekaa Valley where they confront Israeli forces.

Israeli troops in the Bekaa are due to pull back in the second stage of a three-stage withdrawal from Lebanon. The first took place on Saturday when troops left the Sidon area.

Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Shara, quoted by As Safir in another interview, said he expected increased commando attacks on Israeli forces still in South Lebanon.

He said "heroic" Lebanese commandos with unlimited Syrian backing forced Israel to abandon the Sidon area. "We expect resistance operations to increase over the coming months to drive back Israeli occupation forces and liberate Lebanon."

"We are witnessing the end of the Israeli era in Lebanon and the beginning of its retreat from the Arab domain as well," he said.

"Israel does not pull out unless forced to. It has been forced to withdraw from certain regions now, and will similarly be compelled to leave all of Lebanon sooner or later," Mr. Shara added.

In Damascus, newspapers urged increased commando attacks on Israeli troops in South Lebanon and called the success of Lebanon's "national resistance" a lesson for Arabs.

Al Baath, newspaper of Syria's ruling Arab Socialist Baath Party, said the commandos "should not take a warrior's rest (since) the task has not been completed yet."

The government newspaper Tishrin said: "The Arabs should draw a lesson in struggling from the capital of South Lebanon (Sidon). National resistance has proved its capability and scored a great victory."

Sidon faces huge task of reconstruction

SIDON, Lebanon (R) — The people of Sidon face a huge job of reconstruction after a 32-month Israeli occupation that ruined the city's economy.

Economic activity in the city, once a bustling commercial centre for South Lebanon's citrus farmers, has slumped to less than 30 per cent of levels before Israel's 1982 invasion. Ali Al Sharif, president of the Sidon Merchants Association, said:

Subsidised Israeli goods were dumped on local markets and communication with the rest of Lebanon was severely restricted. Now fruit rotting on the trees behind broken orchard walls bulldozed in retaliation for commando attacks, and crosses painted by the Israelis to mark out for punishment shops that joined anti-Israeli strikes are part of the past, locals say.

Two fruit-laden trucks were the first vehicles to cross the Israeli front line north of Sidon when Israeli troops abandoned it, showing Sidon's will to regain its prosperity.

"Opening the coast road to Beirut alone will give the economy a boost of 30 per cent," Mr. Sharif

said. Dr. Ramsi Shaab, who runs a city centre hospital, said taxes imposed by the Israelis and their militia increased the cost of transporting a truck of vegetables from Beirut to Sidon to 8,000 Lebanese pounds (\$580) from 400 (\$29).

No exact figures are available, but war damage is estimated in the tens of millions of dollars, a cost Beirut government facing severe budget problems is unlikely to be able to meet.

A Lebanese army patrol deploying in the Sidon area to forestall sectarian militia clashes was led by a commander in a 15-year-old Peugeot, with his supplies in a small Toyota pickup crudely sprayed army green and the men following up behind in a Mercedes truck.

"We are renting the trucks for a week," said one officer. "We hope army trucks can come down from Beirut after that."

The city's main hope is Rafik Al Haffez, a Sidon-born philanthropist-magnate whose company rebuilds some homes after the invasion. But although work

continues, he has not made known his future plans.

"The most important thing is security," Mr. Shaab said. "We have to get the confidence back that Sidon is a place to where people can come to buy and sell."

Leaders of the 200,000 Sunni and Shiite Muslims and Christians in the area evacuated by Israel allowed the army to take over without incident.

Militia sources here say the Shiite Muslim Amal militia has the most fighters in the area, but they have kept a low profile during the celebrations to greet the army.

In mainly Shiite Tyre, still under Israeli occupation, a Christian schoolteacher said his Christian relatives in Sidon had refused pleas to join him because they were sure South Lebanon's history of peaceful sectarian cohabitation meant peace in the future.

"Before yesterday I didn't want the Israelis to leave, because we were so frightened that fighting around Sidon would spread here," he said. "But the fact that they are leaving means we are all now also, anxiously waiting our turn to be free."

Israel set to prepare next pullout phase

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel's defence minister has said he expects army recommendations within three weeks on timing the next stage of military withdrawal from Lebanon.

"I estimate that within a week, or two, or three, we will have to discuss the matter and arrive at a recommendation for the government on what's next," Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin said on television.

A bomb near the South Lebanese city of Tyre killed one Israeli soldier and wounded three Sunday — the first casualties since

Israel completed phase one of a three-stage pullout by leaving the Sidon area on Saturday.

Under the withdrawal plan, the cabinet must approve the second and third stages — a pullback in eastern Lebanon and a total withdrawal to the international border — before their implementation.

Aides to Prime Minister Shimon Peres, who has said he hopes the army will be home by summer, say he will hold top-level discussions next week aimed at pressing for a quick decision.

Mr. Peres is confident that most

of 16 ministers who voted last month to withdraw would also ratify the next moves, the aides say.

Six ministers, all members of the right-wing Likud Bloc, opposed the pullout decision, but their leader, Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir, was quoted as saying there was no going back.

Mr. Rabin said in Sunday's television interview that small units of Syrian troops might move into parts of east Lebanon's Bekaa Valley, which the Israeli army is to vacate in the next stage of the withdrawal.



FIGHTING THROUGH THE CROWD: Former heavyweight boxing champion Muhammad Ali leaves a Beirut mosque Sunday after prayers. Ali is in Lebanon to try and secure the release of four American hostages. A photograph of Lebanon's Shiite Muslim community is held over his head by someone in the crowd as he leaves the mosque (AP wirephoto)

U.S., Soviets hold Mideast talks today

VIENNA (R) — United States and Soviet officials open two days of discreet talks on the Middle East Tuesday which officials in Washington say are mainly aimed at avoiding miscalculation and reducing the risk of confrontation over the region.

The talks coincide with a flurry of diplomacy on the Middle East, including an accord between Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) on a joint approach to the Arab-Israeli dispute.

They are the first talks on the Middle East between the superpowers since the breakdown of the Geneva Middle East conferences in the mid-1970's.

The talks will be held behind closed doors and have been described as a mere exchange of views, with no official agreements foreseen.

U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy, the State Department's top Middle East expert, and Vladimir Polykov, head of the Near East Division of the Soviet Foreign Ministry, will head the discussions, a U.S. embassy spokesman said.

The talks will be held alternately at the two countries' embassies. The first round is expected to be held at the U.S. embassy Tuesday morning.

No press statements or communiqués will be issued on the

talks, which have been played down by the U.S. administration.

"They are merely an exchange of views," State Department Spokesman Bernard Kalb said last week. "They do not represent any change in the U.S. position regarding issues affecting the region, nor do we expect them to result in changes in the Soviet position."

The U.S. embassy spokesman declined to give any details on the talks.

"We have had instructions to refrain from making any statements whatsoever," he told Reuters. "There may be separate statements afterwards from Washington and Moscow."

U.S. delays economic aid to Sudan

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Reagan administration, apparently dissatisfied with Sudan's efforts to reform its economy, has delayed payment of economic assistance to the African country, the State Department said Sunday.

The department added, however, that Sudan has recently taken "encouraging steps" toward creating conditions that could free the funds.

The statement followed a Washington Post report that the administration, without a public announcement, suspended payment of more than \$194 million in economic aid to Sudan late last year.

The Post said the decision was made by top officials who felt that Sudanese President Jaafar Muhammad Numeiri had failed to take the necessary internal steps to solve his nation's longstanding economic problems.

The money included \$102 million in economic support payments left from the 1984 aid package and \$112 million for 1985. The Post reported. About \$20 million of the total, for specific agricultural programmes, was not affected by the decision, the report said.

The State Department statement, read by spokeswoman Sandra McCarty, contained no figures, but confirmed the payments were no longer being made.

"There has been some delay in disbursement of our economic support funds programme while

we discuss with the Sudanese government its economic reform programme," the statement said.

Elements of the programme, it added, were conditions for such aid.

"In recent weeks the Sudanese have taken a number of encouraging steps along this line," the department said. It did not identify the steps, but described the country as "one of the most important for the United States in that part of the world," and said the talks were continuing.

Drawing a distinction between economic aid and disaster relief, the statement said that food shipments were being accelerated to Sudanese threatened by the famine sweeping across Africa and to refugees seeking haven in Sudan.

The United States has sought to bolster Sudan with financial assistance in recent years because of Mr. Numeiri's support for U.S. policies in the region and out of fear that his regime could become a target for Muslim extremists or allies of Col. Muammar al-Jadhafi, the ruler of neighbouring Libya.

In return, Mr. Numeiri has offered the use of air bases and naval facilities to the United States at a time when the Pentagon is upgrading its ability to respond to crises in the Gulf and other key Near Eastern regions.

In mid-1984, however, it became apparent that Sudan would fail to meet economic targets set by the International Monetary

Fund (IMF), which has been organising a package of aid from Western donor countries.

The State Department has also raised the human rights issue in its dealings with Sudan. Last month's hanging of Mahmud Muhammad Taha, head of an anti-Numeiri political party, was "a clear violation of human rights inconsistent with the shared values of the international community," the State Department said at the time.

U.S. military aid to Sudan would not be affected by the decision, according to the Washington Post.

The New York Times reported Monday that Saudi Arabia, Britain and West Germany were also curtailing aid to Sudan.

In London a spokesman for the Overseas Development Administration (ODA) denied the report.

"No, Britain is not intending to follow the U.S. lead, if indeed this report is borne out," ODA Spokesman Eamonn Taylor told the Associated Press.

Britain's estimated £30 million (\$33 million) in economic aid to Sudan each year "is going to be the same this year," he said.

Since March 1984, Britain has also sent an additional \$8.7 million (\$9.5 million) in aid for drought and refugee problems.

Because of a holiday, no West German officials were available to comment on the report.

Israel deports former Palestinian commander

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel has expelled a former Palestinian commando leader to Lebanon, ending a five-year moratorium on deportation of Arabs from the occupied West Bank and Gaza, officials said Monday.

A Defence Ministry spokesman said Abdel Aziz Shaheen engaged in "vigorous activities of incitement" in the occupied areas and within Israel. He said the Israeli supreme court turned down the Palestinian's appeal against the expulsion order.

"The Israeli forces were instructed to take all reasonable measures to ensure Shaheen's safety until his arrival at a safe haven," he said. The spokesman did not disclose exactly where he was taken in Lebanon.

Sunday's expulsion was the first since 1980 involving a prominent Palestinian opponent of Israel's almost 18-year-long occupation of the West Bank and Gaza.

It followed an upsurge in anti-Israeli violence in the West Bank and calls from Jewish settlers to deport so-called troublemakers.

Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin recently warned he might

renew expulsions if the security situation worsened.

Mr. Shaheen, a former senior Faich commander in the West Bank town of Hebron, was released from an Israeli prison in 1982 after serving a 15-year sentence for possessing explosives.

"During his prison term, Shaheen became the leader of the terrorists imprisoned in all the detention facilities in Israel, Judea and Samaria (the West Bank) and the Gaza district," the spokesman said.

"He organised hunger strikes, recruited people into the terrorist organisations and engaged in other subversive activities," he said. Shaheen began to engage in vigorous activities of incitement in Judea and Samaria, Gaza and in Israel as well.

The spokesman said Israeli authorities eventually restricted his movements to the Gaza Strip and then banished him to a bedouin village in the area.

"However, the measures did not put an end to his hostile activities," he said.

West Bank Arabs stage anti-Israeli demonstration

AMMAN (Petra) — Arab citizens of the occupied West Bank town of Betunia, West of Ramallah, Monday staged a demonstration, raised the Palestinian flag and chanted slogans denouncing Israeli occupation authorities and Israeli oppressive measures against Arabs in the occupied territories, according to news received here.

The news monitored by Jordanian News Agency, Petra, said

that the occupied forces tried to disperse the demonstrators who set road blockades and burned tyres.

Meanwhile Petra quoted Israeli Radio as saying that three masked young men set an Israeli bus on fire near the city of Hebron.

The radio said that the masked men threatened the bus driver with a revolver and evacuated its passengers before putting it on fire.

Klibi, Shara hold talks

DAMASCUS (R) — Arab League Secretary-General Cheddi Klibi had talks with Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Shara on

developments in the Middle East, the official Syrian News Agency SANA said. Mr. Klibi arrived Sunday night for a three-day visit.

Iran seeks U.N. inspection of nuclear power plant

TEHRAN (R) — Iran has asked for a United Nations team to inspect damage it says was caused in an Iraqi air raid on an uncompleted nuclear power plant at the Gulf port of Bushehr, informed sources said Monday.

Iran said one person was killed in last Tuesday's raid, which Iraq said never took place.

Tehran says the raid breached an agreement negotiated last June by U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar banning attacks on civilian areas by the two countries, which have been at war since September 1980.

Work on the plant by West Germany's Kraftwerk Union AG was suspended in 1979 after Iran's Islamic Revolution.

West German sources said construction of one block was 80 per

cent complete and the other block was half finished, but no sensitive equipment had been installed. The plant was designed for two 1,190 megawatt reactors.

Assad meets Berri, Jumblatt and Hoss

DAMASCUS (R) — Syrian President Hafez Al Assad had talks Monday with three Lebanese cabinet ministers on developments in their country, the official Syrian News Agency (SANA) said. The talks with Nabih Berri, Walid Jumblatt and Salim Al Hoss took place two days after Israel completed the first part of a three-stage troop pullout from South Lebanon.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION	BBC WORLD SERVICE
630, 720, 1413 KHz	630, 720, 1413 KHz
MAIN CHANNEL	06:00 Newsweek 06:30 The Classical
17:00 Koran	06:45 Financial News 06:55 Reflections
17:10 Cartoons	07:00 World News 07:09 24
17:30 Children programmes	07:10 News Summary 07:20 News
18:15 Trauma Centre	07:40 Book Choice 07:45 The World
19:00 Local Programme	08:00 Newsweek 08:30 Rock
19:30 Programme Review	08:40 World News 08:50 24
19:35 News Programme	09:00 News Summary 09:30 Seven
20:00 News in Arabic	09:45 Network U.K. 10:00 World News 10:09
20:30 Arabic Series	10:15 News Summary 10:45 What's New
21:30 Programmes Review	11:00 The Elements of Music 11:00 World
21:40 Varieties Programme	11:10 News Summary 11:15 The World
23:00 News in Arabic	11:20 News Summary 11:25 What's New
FOREIGN CHANNEL	12:00 News Summary 12:05 News
17:30 German Programme for Children	12:10 News Summary 12:15 News
18:00 Des grieres and Leger	12:20 News Summary 12:25 News
19:00 News in French	12:30 News Summary 12:35 News
19:15 Varieties	12:40 News Summary 12:45 News
19:30 News in Hebrew	12:50 News Summary 12:55 News
20:00 Star of the Family	13:00 News Summary 13:05 News
20:30 Towards 2000	13:10 News Summary 13:15 News
21:10 Tenko — Eps. 8	13:20 News Summary 13:25 News
22:00 News in English	13:30 News Summary 13:35 News
22:15 Hardcastle and McCormick	13:40 News Summary 13:45 News
RADIO JORDAN	13:50 News Summary 13:55 News
855 KHz, AM & 99 MHz, FM	14:00 News Summary 14:05 News
& partly on 9560 KHz, SW	14:10 News Summary 14:15 News
07:00 Light Music	14:20 News Summary 14:25 News
07:30 News Desk	14:30 News Summary 14:35 News
08:00 Morning Show	14:40 News Summary 14:45 News
10:00 News Summary	14:50 News Summary 14:55 News
10:05 Morning Show Contd.	15:00 News Summary 15:05 News
11:00 Pop Session Contd.	15:10 News Summary 15:15 News
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12:05 Pop Session Contd.	15:30 News Summary 15:35 News
13:00 News Summary	15:40 News Summary 15:45 News
13:05 Pop Session Contd.	15:50 News Summary 15:55 News
14:00 News Bulletin	16:00 News Summary 16:05 News
14:10 Instrumentals	16:10 News Summary 16:15 News
14:15 Country Music	16:20 News Summary 16:25 News
15:00 Concert Hour	16:30 News Summary 16:35 News
16:00 News Summary	16:40 News Summary 16:45 News
16:05 Old Favourites	16:50 News Summary 16:55 News
17:00 Science Report	17:00 News Summary 17:05 News
17:30 Pop Session	17:10 News Summary 17:15 News
18:00 News Summary	17:20 News Summary 17:25 News
18:05 Top Twenty	17:30 News Summary 17:35 News
19:00 Newsweek	17:40 News Summary 17:45 News
19:30 Date with a Star	17:50 News Summary 17:55 News
20:00 Evening Show	18:00 News Summary 18:05 News
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23:05 Evening Show Contd.	19:00 News Summary 19:05 News
23:57 News Headlines	19:10 News Summary 19:15 News
14:00 Close down	19:20 News Summary 19:25 News

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS	EXHIBITIONS
06:00 Jordanian Archaelogical Museum	06:00 Jordanian Archaelogical Museum
06:30 Jordanian Archaelogical Museum	06:30 Jordanian Archaelogical Museum
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FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT	MARITIME TRAFFIC
07:00 Beirut (RJ)	07:00 Beirut (RJ)
07:15 Amman (RJ)	07:15 Amman (RJ)
07:30 Amman (RJ)	07:30 Amman (RJ)
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NEWS IN BRIEF

Cabinet appoints member to Salt council

AMMAN (Petra) — The cabinet has decided to appoint Jalal Tadrous, an attorney, as an extra member of the Salt Municipal Council. Mr. Tadrous was elected in a meeting presided over by Dr. Abdul Razzak Al Nsour, the mayor of Salt.

UNICEF, ministry form committees

AMMAN (Petra) — A joint committee has been set up comprising representatives from the Ministry of Health and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) to prepare special programmes for Jordanian children. UNICEF Amman Office Director Hassan Shawarab said that sub-committees have been formed by the joint committee with the purpose of supporting and training health personnel in the national vaccination campaign and organising health campaigns to check up on children in general.

World Bank delegation concludes visit

AMMAN (Petra) — A World Bank delegation left Amman Monday ending a several-day visit to Jordan at the invitation of the Ministry of Health during which they visited a number of hospitals and health centres and met with ministry officials. The delegation also signed an agreement with the ministry for building 40 health centres all over the country at the cost of JD 28 million to be paid equally by the ministry and the World Bank.

Iraqi oil ministry official due soon

AMMAN (Petra) — Mr. Issam Jalabi, under secretary at the Iraqi Ministry of Oil and president of the Iraqi National Oil Company, is due in Amman in the next few days. During his stay, Mr. Jalabi will meet with Natural Resources Authority (NRA) officials to discuss joint cooperation between the Iraqi National Oil Company and the NRA in matters related to oil prospecting in Jordan.

Hindawi visits local municipal councils

AMMAN (Petra) — Amman Governor Turki Al Hindawi Monday visited Qweismeh, Jbeiha and Tla' Ali municipalities where he discussed with municipal councils the measures taken to prevent the recent rain from causing damage.

Wolves attack Qadisieh citizens

TAFILEH (J.T.) — Two hungry wolves have reportedly attacked citizens of Qadisieh in Tafleh district injuring at least seven people. A report in the local press said that the wolves attacked the homes of several people in the town who fought them and killed one animal while the other escaped. The injured people have been receiving treatment in Tafleh hospital, the report added.

WAJ team leaves for France today

AMMAN (Petra) — A Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ) delegation leaves Amman Tuesday for a 10-day tour of France and Italy to get acquainted with factories which produce some supplies and materials related to the authority's work. The delegation will be led by WAJ Secretary General Mahmoud Al Talhoumi.

Arabic academy plans linguistics centre

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian Academy of Arabic has requested the Universities of Jordan, Yarmouk and Mu'ta to organise and collaborate together in implementing a study department for linguistics and phonetical surveys. The University of Jordan has prepared a proposal to establish a department for phonetical studies.

Ruseifa citizens complain about phosphate dust pollution

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — Jordan is the world's third largest phosphate exporter after Morocco and the United States and expects to export 5.7 million tonnes this year worth \$230 million. The phosphates are mined at Ruseifa, north east of Amman, but mainly at Hassa in the south.

Last month, a consortium of French and Jordanian firms won a \$3-million contract to study the feasibility of exploiting new phosphate mines under a plan to almost double Jordan's phosphate exports to nine million tonnes by 1990.

But phosphates, which are a blessing for Jordan which has very limited natural resources, are a source of constant danger in Ruseifa where the atmosphere has been seriously polluted by the phosphate dust and whose inhabitants continue to suffer from ill-health.

The pollution problem did not exist in the early 1930's when the rock first began to be mined, mainly because the area was sparsely

populated at the time and the quantities of phosphate produced were limited.

Private contractors who started their early mining knew that it was not possible to produce great quantities because of poor equipment and due to a lack of proper means of transporting the rock. The production had to be transported to Haifa in Palestine for processing by all available means, including lorries, donkeys and camels.

It was not until 1952 that the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC) was established and modern-style production started. Lorries are now being used to ship production to Aqaba for export by sea, but part of the phosphate is being processed in Ruseifa to produce superphosphates for use in agriculture.

Dust clouds

The JPMC introduced the open cast mines in the 1960s and production became easier and faster, but more dust began to fly up into the air and to settle on the surrounding homes which by this

time had increased considerably in the area around the factory. The dust, according to Ruseifa citizens, is threatening the health of the inhabitants as it covers everything in sight and gets into the people's food and water.

Dr. Wisam Al Kharouf who lives in Ruseifa said that the environment has a deep effect on the lives of people both physiologically and psychologically. Despite the municipality's endeavours to keep the city clean, the phosphate dust covers everything and the presence of some factories pollute the air and threatens the health of people. Dr. Kharouf said:

"The presence of the phosphate factory west of the city is dangerous, since the wind normally blows from the west bringing with it dust that affects the respiratory tract, causing allergies and making it difficult to breathe. The dust causes diseases of the eyes and skin and in view of the presence of uranium in the dust, the people are also exposed to radiation. People who inhale polluted air become sick and of course their

behaviour is affected. Apart from people, the dust affects the animals and the plants and also the water sources in Ruseifa," said Dr. Kharouf.

Mr. Sim'an Qa'war said that he has lived in Ruseifa for 33 years but has recently felt an increasing danger from the phosphates dust which he said falls on the city day and night. "If you pass through the city during the night you feel as if you are going through a tunnel full of thick dust where you can hardly see anything and in the day one can see the whole city covered with the dust — the houses, farms, streets, cars, even clothes, water tanks on the roofs and people's food," Mr. Qa'war said.

Lung damage

He said: "JPMC officials realise the danger of this dust but still refuse to do anything about it. No wonder the company subjects its workers to annual medical examinations, because the dust is inhaled into the body and causes damage to the lungs. I suggest a new filter be installed at the factory to absorb as much of the dust as possible and to replace the 15-year-old one, now still in use and which is of no more benefit. If the filter costs JD 15,000, the lives of people are more expensive."

A school principal, Mohammad Daoud Hamdan, said that Ruseifa is considered one of the industrial areas in Jordan but in the past the city served as a "basket of vegetables and fruit for Amman." When phosphates began to be mined, the city lost its vegetables as the dust settled, endangering people's lives, he added.

Mr. Hamdan said: "Ruseifa has now become a workers city where phosphates, along with other related industries exist. No doubt Ruseifa trebled in size over the past 25 years but its vegetables are all gone and its people no more enjoy a healthy environment. Whereas in the past the fragrance of apples and apricots attracted visitors from far away, the city now is shunned by people because it is covered with dust. You can see many Ruseifa inhabitants coughing day and night and hospital records indicate that their lungs have absorbed a considerable

amount of harmful dust. To date no effective remedy has been found."

More housework

Mrs. Samia Majid, a housewife, said that the phosphates are considered a wealth for Jordan but a source of constant danger to the lives of nearly 120,000 people living in Ruseifa. The kilns that have been used at the factory are spewing out great quantities of dust so that the city looks like a sandhill of dust during the day. Mrs. Majid added, she said: "Cleaning and removing dust has become our main work at home because the dust covers practically everything — the furniture, the clothes inside the wardrobes and the beds. I am afraid masks will be needed if we want to go on living in the city."

The Ruseifa people's complaints do not end and they say that despite appeals to the municipality, their efforts went in vain, and that it is now up to the government to take a drastic measure to end their sufferings.

Canadian aide discusses Middle East issues

Canada in favour of joint Jordanian-Palestinian peace efforts, senior official says

By Sa'ad G. Hattar
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Canada welcomes the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement reached last week on a "formula for a common action" towards revitalising the peace process and solving the Palestinian problem and the Middle East question, a senior Canadian official said Monday.

Mr. Robert Elliott, director general of the Middle East Bureau at the Canadian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said: "Although the details of the agreement are still not unveiled, Canada is in favour of such constructive efforts to promote the stalemate in the Palestinian issue."

In an interview with the Jordan Times, Mr. Elliott also praised Jordanian efforts to move the peace process towards a just solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Referring to Jordan's call for an international peace conference on the Middle East under the auspices of the United Nations, Mr. Elliott said that Canada supports the idea in principle. "However, we don't think that convening such a conference at this stage would bear fruit, since several concerned parties oppose the concept," he added.

Mr. Elliott, who is currently on a tour of four countries in the region to discuss issues of mutual interest, has visited Lebanon and met with Amal militia leader and Minister of South Lebanon Nabih Berri and discussed with him the situation in Lebanon.

In reply to a question about the overall Canadian approach towards the Middle East, Mr. Elliott said: "Canadians have a fair minded attitude to the Arab-Israeli conflict. We believe that Palestinians have the right to have a homeland and the right to participate fully in any peace negotiations on their future."

U.N. resolutions

However, Canada prefers peace negotiations based on U.N. Resolution 242 which stipulates the withdrawal of Israeli soldiers from all the occupied Arab territories in the 1967 war. Mr. Elliott said. When told that the Resolution 242 neglected the right of Palestinians and described them as "refugees", Mr. Elliott said that he believes that the Palestinian people have the right to self-determination and to have a homeland in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. "However, we endorse the land for peace formula, provided for in the resolution," added Mr. Elliott.

Speaking about the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), Mr. Elliott said Canada does not recognise the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinians. He explained that "Canada believes that there may exist other elements in the West Bank or Gaza Strip who have a different perspective to the PLO".

During his three day visit to Jordan, Mr. Elliott conferred with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri, Minister of Industry and Trade Jawad Al Anani, Minister of Tourism, Culture and Antiquities and Acting Minister of Information Taher Hikmat and Minister of the Royal Court Marwan Al Qasem.

They discussed the latest regional political developments in the light of Jordan's efforts to promote the peace process and the Jordanian-Palestinian "agreement on a framework for a joint action" which was announced on Feb. 11 by His Majesty King Hussein and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat. They also tackled the bilateral economic relations and means of strengthening them.

Economic ties, projects

According to Mr. Elliott, the economic ties between Canada and Jordan are modest. Nevertheless, during his stay in Amman he offered Canadian technical assistance for some Jordanian projects, including a packaging system for drugs and medicine products, studies for telecommunications switchboard project, cooperation in cultivating wheat in Jordan and supplying Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airline, with small passenger aircraft to work on the Amman-Aqaba route.

Mr. Elliott said that "DASH-7 and DASH-8 aircraft, with a capacity of 35 to 50 passengers are likely the kinds in question which are produced by the Havilland Aircraft Company of Canada". Some Canadian companies are also interested in telecommunications and railway transportation. Mr. Elliott said, adding that a joint venture project to increase potato seeds has already been suggested. A feasibility study was recently conducted and the project will see the light soon, he concluded.

Mr. Elliott left Amman Monday for a two-day visit to Syria after which he will return to Jordan before concluding his Middle East tour in Iraq.

JCCC board reviews trade with Egypt, local exports

AMMAN (Petra) — A trade protocol recently reached with Egypt was discussed Monday at a meeting of the board of directors of the Jordan Commercial Centres Corporation (JCCC) chaired by Ministry of Trade and Industry Under Secretary Ibrahim Badran.

Dr. Badran said that the meeting reviewed the role that the corporation can play in realising the terms of the protocol by providing help to Jordanian exporters to Egypt.

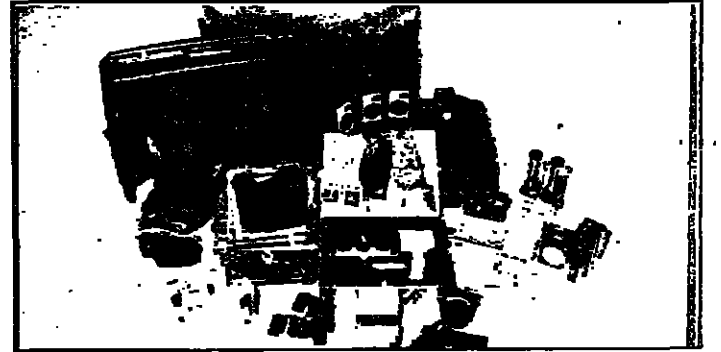
He said that the meeting also discussed the final preparations for the Jordanian products exhibition starting in Bahrain on Tuesday.

The exhibition is financed by the JCCC and is held in cooperation with the Ministry of Trade and Industry and the Amman Chamber of Industry. Dr. Badran explained.

He said that the meeting also discussed the corporation's organisational structure in order to enable it to provide more service to exporters. He added that a legal consultant was appointed to provide the corporation with legal advice.

Dr. Badran said that the board also discussed a planned industrial exhibition to be held this summer which will run for three months and which aims to introduce Jordanian industry to Jordanians and visitors.

The board was later received by Minister of Trade and Industry Jawad Al Anani.



Some of the goods stolen from a store on the University of Jordan road by an Egyptian thief. The goods were retrieved by Sweileh police after investigations in to the case (Al Ra'i photo)

Police capture two thieves

AMMAN (J.T.) — Sweileh police have announced the capture of two thieves, who committed robberies in Amman and Sweileh and stole goods worth at least JD 10,000.

One of the robbers was identified only as N.S.M., an 18-year-old Egyptian, who the police said had stolen goods from a store on the Jordan University road. The thief told the police that he was able to enter the store from a small opening near the ceiling and had stolen goods worth over JD

3,000. The police, who conducted thorough investigations and enquiries in the course of identifying the thief and apprehending him, said that the stolen items were found to have been sold to other Egyptians living in Sweileh and were duly retrieved.

The second thief was identified only as 22-year-old A.A. who had stolen JD 7,000 from a house in Sweileh. The money had been kept in a bag containing JD 13,000, but the thief took only JD 7,000, a police spokesman said.

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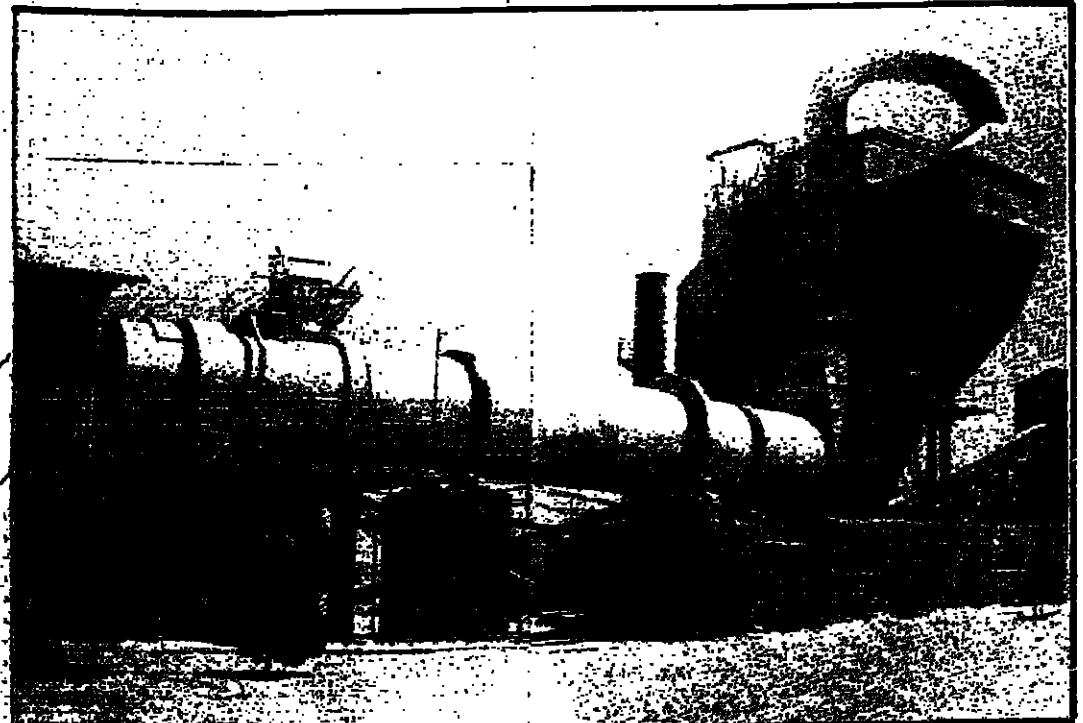
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For further information contact Mr. Jamal Awamleh and Mr. Ali Abu Romman at telephone no. 30203 - 22708 - 30809 - 844634 - 841418



The Ruseifa phosphate mines which citizens in the area say is responsible for pollution of the city and health-related problems (J.T. file photo)

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Soviet Union gets more food-at a price

The Soviet authorities have managed to deliver more food to the consumer, reports Patrick Cockburn, but returns on their heavy investment in agriculture remain disappointing.

MOSCOW — In the food halls of the central market near the Kremlin, meat sells for the equivalent of \$9 a kilo, a free market price.

If you brave the crush in the state meat and fish shop 30 yards farther up Tsvetnoy Boulevard, less well butchered meat costs \$2.12 a kilo.

The variation in price between the ordinary shops, where meat is subsidised by at least 50 per cent, and the free markets is typical of the quirks in the Soviet distribution and retail system.

For even if food supplies were better, the pricing system would still produce shortages. Since 1982 real incomes have risen 70 per cent, but meat prices have remained the same. The yearly subsidy for meat and milk products is over \$45 billion.

Basic food supplies have improved in the last two years as a result of the food programme started in 1982: production of meat, mainly beef and pork, rose to 16.7 million tons last year, compared with an average of 14.8 million tons in 1976-80, and output of milk and eggs also rose.

This success has been achieved even though grain harvests have been poor. Last year total grain production is estimated at 170 million tons compared with a target of 240 million tons. Grain purchases abroad of about 50 million tons, costing up to \$8 billion, will probably be needed.

The grain imports are used for animal feed, not human consumption, as the politburo appears to have decided that the amounts of meat and dairy products available to the consumer must be increased, whatever the state of the harvest.

The high cost of grain imports is not the only price that the Soviet economy must pay for this policy. Domestic agriculture absorbs one-third of total capital investment.

Soviet leaders, notably Mr.

Mikhail Gorbachev, number two in the Politburo and its agricultural expert, continue to lament the fact that although agricultural investment is so high, grain production for animal feed is still failing to meet targets.

The problem is organisation as much as funding, he says. Infrastructure in the countryside, which was very backward before the 1917 revolution, and was afterwards bled of manpower for industrialisation, is very weak.

Roads, where they exist, are often of poor quality. In winter, snow makes access to villages and farms difficult and even in summer traffic moves at an average speed of only 25 kilometres per hour, according to a survey carried out by the daily newspaper Izvestia.

Lack of facilities makes it difficult to keep people on the land, particularly the skilled workers needed to use and maintain new machinery. Mr. Gorbachev claimed last year that conditions had now been created in which every collective and state farm had the opportunity "to increase output, earn money, raise profitability and cut losses."

People needed, he said, to sense a direct dependence between their labour and their pay. If they are beginning to do so, the results are slow to appear, although some advances have been made.

The breakthrough in productivity that Mr. Gorbachev and others have looked for has not come, and there are few indications that it will in the immediate future.

And although it is unlikely that Soviet consumers will ever find that they cannot buy meat, the same cannot be said of mandarins. Before Christmas they cost \$2.24 a kilo in the subsidised market and \$5.60 in the free market. Late in January the latter price had risen to nearly \$9 — but there were none on sale — Financial Times news feature.

British dramatic tradition threatened by cuts

By David Lewis
Reuter

LONDON — Britain's cultural community is up in arms after an announcement of cuts or only "miserly" rises in government subsidies for the performing arts.

The prestigious National Theatre (N.T.) is to close one of its three stages, while theatres, opera companies and orchestras throughout the country will have to axe productions and forego artistic innovation in favour of commercial success.

"An act of wanton vandalism" screamed one headline after the Arts Council announced grant cuts for the four major London orchestras, and rises well below inflation for the four national companies — the N.T., the Royal Opera House, the Royal Shakespeare Company (RSC) and the English National Opera (ENO).

Sir Peter Hall, director of the N.T., spoke furiously of a "betrayal" of the arts and announced

the closure of the Cottesloe Theatre, the most intimate and acclaimed of the three N.T. stages. Britain's Flagship Theatrical Organisation will also shed 100 jobs, cease touring and end fringe events.

"I am appalled and outraged by the low government subsidy," Mr. Hall told journalists. "I am angry on behalf of the subsidised theatre throughout the country. I believe the level of grants is going to have a devastating effect on many of them."

The government does not accept the view that — through job creation, tourism, value added tax on tickets and national insurance contributions — subsidies to arts bodies in fact bring more money back than they cost the Treasury.

It says the arts must learn to live within their means and share the burden of cuts in public spending at a time when the pound is at a historic low and unemployment above 13 per cent.

The Arts Council raised its grant to the N.T. by only 1.9 per

cent for 1985/86 — just under the average rise for Arts Council clients — to 6.7 million sterling (\$7.3 million).

With retail price inflation forecast at four to five per cent and average wages rising much faster than that, the N.T. had sought eight million sterling (\$8.7 million). Closure of the 400-seat Cottesloe, where many award-winning productions have been staged, will save 500,000 sterling (\$545,000).

Central London will lose its most sympathetic and best-equipped small theatre space, and the National Theatre its single, consistent artistic success since moving to the south bank in 1976, critic Michael Raftery wrote in the Observer.

The N.T. will abandon regional tours and all foyer exhibitions and entertainment. Thirty actors will be among the 100 of the N.T.'s 700 employees to go, and large-scale plays like the current award-winning "Coriolanus" will be impossible to mount.

Britain's three other national companies will also suffer.

The ENO must cut two new productions, tickets at the already expensive Royal Opera House will rise by eight per cent and the RSC is to emphasise "safe" plays and money-spinning revivals.

A year ago, an efficiency report won the RSC more funds and recommended real grant rises each year. "Now we are back in the land of the midnight crisis," RSC joint artistic directors Trevor Nunn and Terry Hands wrote to the Times on Thursday.

Non-national theatre companies and the four London orchestras are being squeezed even harder, the orchestras losing a combined 280,000 sterling (\$305,000) in 1985/86.

London's Royal Court Theatre will receive no grant increase next financial year, jeopardising the kind of innovative plays for which it has been famous since it produced the work of the "angry young men" of British drama in

the 1950s. "We are not in a position of taking risks at the moment," said spokeswoman Natasha Harvey. "But if the Royal Court stops taking risks, then the Royal Court will lose all of its value."

The theatre, on Chelsea's Sloane Square, has programmed two "bankable" revivals for the next few months rather than follow its usual policy of giving new playwrights a chance.

The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, which stands to lose up to 70,000 sterling (\$76,000) in Arts Council grants, is also having to axe less well-known works from its repertoire, even new pieces specially commissioned with Arts Council help.

"The message is 'play safe and cancel those things which are likely to die at the box office,'" said Spokesman Archie Newman.

The news of next year's grants has been widely condemned.

"Budget for disaster," read a headline in the usually pro-

government Sunday Times. "March of the Philistines," wrote the Observer. "A miserly increase" said the Standard.

The situation is all the more serious as the Greater London Council may withdraw its support of London companies in order to avoid financial penalties from central government. Mr. Hall says this could close the National Theatre altogether.

In the absence of what they regard as sufficient public funding, arts bodies are hoping for more private sponsorship.

Colin Tweedy, director of the Association for Business Sponsorship of the Arts (ABSA), says public support for the arts is "totally inadequate", especially as Britain excels in them.

Some firms have shown interest in helping the N.T., though past ABSA policy has been "supplement, not substitute," he says. "Americans have rung me up saying they can't believe we can allow the Cottesloe to close."

China finally busy confronting environmental threat

By Anthony Barker
Reuter

PEKING — After decades of neglect, China is finally confronting the grave threat to its future posed by one of the most serious pollution problems on earth.

According to official estimates in late 1983, untreated waste water, polluting gas, smog, soil erosion and acid rain were damaging the environment to the tune of 350 billion yuan (\$122 billion) a year.

"Improvement of ecological conditions is not only an economic problem but an issue concerning the survival and development of the nation," Vice-Premier Wan Li told an ecological symposium in Peking.

Since Deng Xiaoping took full control of the country in 1978, the Chinese press has increasingly revealed a grim picture of def-

orestation, erosion and dumping of industrial waste.

China's ecological balance is precarious because the country's heartland has been intensively farmed for centuries to support a dense population now over one billion strong.

After 1949, a drive to build heavy industry, coupled with Mao Tse-tung's determination to grow grain even if it meant filling in lakes and cutting down forests, brought erosion, water shortages and pollution to near-crisis levels.

In 1982, Chinese industry released an estimated 31 billion tonnes of untreated waste water, 41 million tonnes of polluting gas and 400 million tonnes of industrial residues.

Coal, which provides 70 per cent of fuel and is mainly low quality, is creating serious smog and acid rain in 20 cities. The Shanghai-based world economic

herald says 1.2 million square kilometres of soil have been eroded, due to overfarming and excessive tree-felling.

Only last year did China begin to set up a comprehensive legal framework and enforcement apparatus to fight the problem.

The government has encouraged diversified farming, ended single cropping and re-excavated some lakes.

There have been notable successes, including a "great green wall" of trees to control wind erosion in the arid north.

It has already led to the establishment of 740,000 small farms in little towns away from central supervision, employing peasants with little idea of pollution control.

"More and more outdated equipment and polluted products are making their way to rural areas,

especially where there are no pollution protection measures," the world economic herald said.

"The foul smell from polluted rivers and ponds is now a landmark for some rural towns," the New China News Agency quoted an unnamed Zhejiang Province official as saying. "Shut your eyes and just sniff — you'll know where you are."

To fight further damage, the state council has formed an environmental protection committee under Vice-Premier Li Peng and an Environmental Protection Administration (EPA) with bureaux around the country.

They have given teeth to new water and marine pollution laws, part of planned overall legislation making factories responsible for their own pollution and managers criminally liable in cases of severe damage or injuries.

Laws on radioactive materials, protection of flora and fauna and elimination of solid wastes are also being drafted. "Now it is most important to enforce them," Mr. Li said.

Until now, government officials have watched helplessly while their guidelines were widely flouted.

Despite the national tree-planting campaign and arrests for unauthorised felling, Chinese forests are still shrinking.

A spectacular example of government impotence followed the completion in 1983 of a huge diversion project, channelling one billion cubic metres of water annually to meet shortages in the northern industrial city of Tianjin.

Only one year later, the China Daily said water from the new channel was fast becoming toxic as 200 factories poured 300,000

tonnes of waste into it daily in defiance of state orders, knowing that current fines are so low that they can simply buy the right to discharge pollutants.

In a 1983 book based on published Chinese studies, Professor Vaclav Smil of the University of Manitoba questioned whether China could overcome bureaucratic inertia and the demands of rapid industrialisation to control its environmental problems.

"The best outlook is for some gradual localised improvements and for the prevention of further major degradation in key sectors and areas," Prof. Smil wrote in his book "The bad earth."

But Xue Baoding, director of China's Institute for Urban and Rural Construction, responded that China had the know-how to end ecological imbalance in agriculture and industrial pollution.

Little items tell Acadian fort story

"To the east is another Bay, called by the French Pentagoet or Pentokong, where I saw the ruins of a French settlement, which from the site and nature of the houses and the remains of fields and orchards, had been once a pleasant habitation. One's heart felt sorrow that it had been destroyed." — Gov. Thomas Pownall of Massachusetts, 1759

By Boris Weintraub

CASTINE, Maine — It is a very small coin, though very heavy, and the writing is in Persian. It comes from India, and was found by the crew of Alaric Faulkner, an archaeologist in the Anthropology Department at the University of Maine, Orono, during the excavation of the 17th-century French fort of Pentagoet.

"It belongs to the reign of a Shah Aurangzeb, the last of the Mogul shahs, and dates between 1672 and 1704," says Mr. Faulkner, caressing the coin. "In fact, it was found here in the context of 1670-74, so we know exactly how long it took to get here."

Part of grand scheme

"This was at the time the French East India Company was starting. I'm sure one of our soldiers had been stationed in India, and had this among his personal effects. It wasn't worth much then, it was just an everyday coin. But it tells you that Pentagoet was, at that time, part of a global trading network. It wasn't just an outpost in the middle of nowhere; it was part of a larger plan of Louis XIV's to colonise the New World and move French colonialism into other parts of the world."

So much information from one small object, and that is just the start. In four summers of digging around the back lawn of Our Lady of Holy Hope Church here on the shores of the Bagaduce River near Penobscot Bay, Mr. Faulkner and his crew have dug up more than 11,300 artifacts from the 17th century, from coins to clay pipes, from cannonballs to pistol barrels.

from uniform braid to cooking vessels.

Along the way, they have unearthed significant remains of the five buildings that were built during the heyday of Fort Pentagoet, when it was the capital of France's Atlantic colony of Acadia. And they have also upset much of the conventional wisdom, scholarly and otherwise, about what 17th-century French colonialism was like.

Most historians, when they have written about Acadia at all, have assumed that the French "went native" in their colonial efforts, living in the woods with the Indians. Not so, says Gretchen Fearon Faulkner, the archaeologist's wife, who has written her master's thesis on the excavations.

"At Pentagoet, you find quite the opposite," she says. "You find they're building typically European fortifications, using European construction techniques. They're not eating wild game, they're eating domestic livestock."

"They imported the finest glassware for use as common drinking glasses, just as they would have in Europe," says Alaric Faulkner. "In other words, it's very much of a transplanted lifestyle they're living here in this period."

Storm exposed stones

The Faulkners began digging at Pentagoet after a winter storm eroded the riverside and exposed stones that seemed to be part of the old French fort that residents had long known existed somewhere on the site. Early investigation immediately turned up ceramics and clay pipes from the

17th century, suggesting that excavation could produce something significant.

A preliminary survey, financed by the Maine Historic Preservation Commission, showed that the ruins of the fort were well preserved. The survey led to three more years of excavation funded primarily by the National Endowment for the Humanities. Meanwhile, the Army Corps of Engineers built a sea wall to stop further erosion.

By the time it became the capital of Acadia in 1670, Pentagoet already had a long history, even if one ignores evidence of Indian settlements there before the first Europeans showed up.

A French trading post was rumored to be in the vicinity in the early years of the 17th century, but the first documented occupation of the site was a trading outpost established by the Plymouth colony of Massachusetts in 1629.

The French had claimed much of the area. Indeed, Pentagoet eventually became the southwesternmost limit of French colonialism that extended up the coast of what is now Maine and into much of Maritime Canada. In 1635, the French evicted the English settlers and took over the site.

For the next two decades, the site belonged to a French colonist, who ruled it with his private troops and occasionally battled with other Frenchmen as well as with the English to the south. At the same time, however, because of the little colony's needs, the French regularly traded with the English, disregarding the wishes of both home governments.

English take over

In 1654, Pentagoet and other Acadian sites were taken over by English forces acting under the instructions of Oliver Cromwell.

But though Pentagoet was ruled by the English until 1670, when it was returned to the French under the Treaty of Breda, there is very little archaeological evidence that the English ever occupied the site, and only a handful of artifacts from this period have turned up during the excavations.

The newly appointed French governor of Acadia was instructed "to make his principal establishment — which it appears to us ought to be at Pentagoet, as being the place nearest the territory under English rule." It is from this period that most of the artifacts have been found, leading the Faulkners to call the site a beautifully preserved time capsule of life in 1670-74.

But French rule was relatively short-lived. In 1674, a Dutch ship operating out of Curacao attacked the fort. Its bombs destroyed much of the fort and probably set fire to the remainder. The fort was "level'd with ye ground."

Contrary to rumours and common belief here, the fort was never rebuilt, though an English trader built a hut on the site shortly after Governor Pownall's 1759 visit. Ironically, however, the destruction helped to preserve the fort's artifacts. The rubble afforded protection from the elements, from amateur archaeologists, and from the well-meaning efforts of an earlier priest to grade the uneven back lawn of the church by using a bulldozer and hauling in gravel.

Mr. Faulkner's excavations so far have uncovered about half of the compact site, revealing the officers' quarters, a small chapel, the entrance gate, and the enlisted men's barracks — part of which had earlier served as a forge. The buildings were constructed of stone and mortar, with walls seven feet high — unusual in size and construction for the period. — National Geographic Feature.



Working on the shores of Maine's Bagaduce River, members of an archaeological crew excavate the foundations of the officers' quarters and enlisted men's barracks of Fort Pentagoet, in the town of Castine. The fort served as the capital of French Acadia between 1670 and

1674, but European settlement had begun more than four decades earlier. Archaeologists have unearthed the remains of five different European colonial occupations on the site (National Geographic photo)

Measuring the benefits of water on improving people's health

By Sumi Krishnna

LONDON — The U.N.'s 1981-1990 World Water Decade is based on the assumption that giving people safe water and better sanitation will automatically improve people's health. But a number of recent studies cast doubt on this fundamental belief.

These studies pose questions for the U.N. agencies, the international banks, the bilateral aid agencies and the voluntary organisations funding the decade. Must they justify their investments by proof of improved health? Can such benefits even be measured? How much will it cost to measure them?

In preparing for the decade, the World Bank declared that adequate research on the subject

would cost too much. However, much money continues to be spent on assessing the health impacts of clean water and better latrines.

For instance, thousands of dollars went for a study of the impact of a major urban water supply project in the Philippines. Robert Magnani and Steven Tourkin of the U.S. Bureau of the Census say that the results of this effort were "mixed". They found improvements in water-handling and sanitation, "but a significant health impact which could reasonably be attributed to the project was not observed."

The most-cited study was done by Dr. Fitzroy Henry on the Caribbean island of St. Lucia, during efforts to control schistosomiasis (snail fever) by providing (free) safe household water supplies and

latrines. In one isolated valley, households were given piped water and water-seal latrines; in another valley, they got only water; and in the third valley, they got nothing. The effect on children's diarrhoeal and parasitic diseases and on their nutritional condition was measured.

Dr. Henry found that families using more water had less disease. Households which used less than 25 litres per day were at risk. Those who had piped water and latrines suffered fewer illnesses. Improved water supply alone reduced the stunting of children, he found.

Dr. Henry's study is one of the very few to show a measurable health impact, but the project had complete control of factors such as the collection and storage of water

in the house. Such conditions are not typical of everyday life in the villages of the developing world.

Many other studies claim to show an improvement in one or more health indicators, but the conclusions of most have been questioned. After reviewing 50 studies published in English, Deborah Blum and Dr. Richard Feachem of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, expressed "serious doubts" about them.

There are many reasons why most of these studies are unreliable or incomplete. For instance, one of the commonly used indicators of health is the occurrence of diarrhoea in young children. But information about the diarrhoeal history of a household is notoriously difficult to collect.

People do not remember. Or they may be embarrassed to admit having diarrhoea, or afraid.

The few studies which have linked improved water supply and sanitation to a decrease in diarrhoea have all been conducted in very special circumstances.

Dr. Oscar Brunser of Chile's Institute of Nutrition and Food Technology studied a group of slum dwellers who were moved into a new housing complex, with safe water supply and modern sanitation. He found that the move did not significantly reduce the number of diarrhoea cases. But the types of diseases changed from seriously damaging varieties to the less harmful types.

In the slum, diarrhoea did not seem to be related to dirty latrines, food exposed to flies and germs, or

unwashed hands. But the same factors in the improved housing definitely increased the risk of diarrhoea.

Although the slum-dwellers were among the poorest in the country, they had a high literacy rate and were covered by Chile's socialised medical system, which includes extensive health education. Also, as Dr. Brunser notes, the expensive new housing makes this case untypical.

Dr. Raymond Isely of the University of North Carolina, U.S., recommends that water supply should be viewed primarily as a nutrient in the improved growth of children. Steven Esrey, a researcher at Cornell University, U.S., is among many researchers who believe that the nutritional



condition of children is a much better indicator of health than the incidence of diarrhoea, and that this can be accurately evaluated by measuring heights and weights.

Mr. Esrey suggests that improved water supply can have an indirect impact on health which may not be reflected in reduced

diarrhoea. For instance, if mothers spend less time collecting water, they may have more time for child care. Perhaps breastfeeding will improve. However, only a handful of studies have used height/weight measurements to evaluate the impact of water and sanitation. — Earthscan feature.

سکتا میں ایمل

Mayotte claims players title

DELRAY BEACH, Florida (R) — Tim Mayotte, who ranks 45th in the world, won his first tournament on the pro tour Sunday and it was a big one — the inaugural \$1.8 million International Players Championships.

Mayotte took the title with flair, coming from two-sets down to overcome fellow American Scott Davis, who is ranked 27th, 4-6, 4-6, 6-3, 6-2, 6-4 in a 3-hour and 24-minute final.

"It is the most satisfying win in my life," said Mayotte, who like Davis was unseeded in a 13-day Grand Slam-type event which saw all 16 men's seeds, including top-seeded Ivan Lendl, fall by the wayside.

"It was scary, really, my first win coming in such a big tournament, and the comeback makes it fun," Mayotte said.

Davis praised Mayotte for playing well on key points in the last three sets. "It was a combination of fatigue and a loss of concentration. My adrenaline carried me early. He then came back and every time I got a break point, he served well."

Mayotte collected \$112,500 and Davis earned \$56,250, far and away the biggest pay cheques of their careers.

From 3-4 in the first set, Davis won five straight games to take the first set and go ahead 2-0 in the second when he broke Mayotte's serve twice.

"When I was up 2-0 in sets, I

tried to put him away," said Davis who was Mayotte's teammate at Stanford University in 1981. "I had a small letup in the third set when I was in control. I guess this comes with experience. My legs were still tired from the late match I had (beating 11th seed Tomas Smid on Friday in a match that ended after midnight).

After taking the third set on a service break in the sixth game, Mayotte pulled ahead 5-1 in the fourth set en route to squaring the match at two sets apiece.

It went to 3-3 in the final set

after which Mayotte broke Davis in the seventh game and held in the eighth to make it 5-3. Davis then held serve, but Mayotte closed out the match on service with a sharply-angled volley.

Martina Navratilova, who beat Chris Evert Lloyd in the women's final on Saturday, and Gigi Fernandez of Puerto Rico, who were top-seeded, won the women's doubles final Sunday when they beat Kathy Jordan of the U.S. and Hana Mandlikova of Czechoslovakia 7-6, (7-4), 6-2.

Navratilova also teamed with Heinz Gunthardt of Switzerland to win the mixed doubles title. It marked the first time a player had won three titles in a tournament since Billie Jean King at Wimbledon in 1973.

Vatnen wins Swedish Rally

KARLSTAD, Sweden (R) — Finland's Ari Vatnen drove his Peugeot 205 Turbo to victory in the Swedish Motor Rally Sunday, his fifth successive race win.

It took him four hours 38 minutes 49 seconds to complete the 29 special stages of the second 1985 World Championship event.

The reigning champion, Sweden's Stig Blomqvist, came second in his Audi Quattro Turbo, one minute 49 seconds behind Vatnen.

It was only on the 14th stage that the 32-year-old Finn briefly found his match, as Blomqvist squeezed 34 seconds ahead.

Third was Timo Salonen, Vatnen's Peugeot teammate and compatriot, who was 3:26 behind, followed by 1983 World Champion Hannu Mikkola in his Audi Quattro, 11:43 behind.

The world championship standings after two events:

1. Ari Vatnen (Finland) 40 points
2. Stig Blomqvist (Sweden) 25 points
3. Timo Salonen (Finland) 24 points
4. Walter Roehrl (West Germany) 15 points
5. Hannu Mikkola (Finland) 10 points
6. Bruno Saby (France) and Per Eklund (Sweden) both 8 points
7. Henry Toivonen (Finland) and Gunnar Pettersson (Sweden) both 6 points
8. Danny Snobeck (France) and Mikael Eriksson (Sweden) both 4 points.

Bramble lists champions to fight

RENO, Nevada (R) — World Boxing Association lightweight champion Livingstone Bramble extended an olive branch to Ray "Boom Boom" Mancini Monday following his second victory over the former title-holder.

Bramble, who had engaged in a scathing war of words with Mancini before both fights, had nothing but praise for his 23-year-old rival after retaining his title with a 15-round decision on Saturday night.

"I knew I won the fight and Ray Mancini knew I won the fight," Bramble said. "I tried to take him out, but he was strong and I couldn't. I think it was a great fight."

Most observers felt that it was a good, but not great, fight, and that Bramble, 24, clearly deserved the decision. As it was, it was very close, at least in the scoring, with all three judges giving the nod to Bramble by one point.

"He proved his first win wasn't a fluke," Bramble's manager Lou Duva told a press conference in alluding to Bramble's 14th round knockout of Mancini in their first bout last June 1 in Buffalo.

Bramble, who dominated most of the bout, was unmarked apart from a slight nick under his left eye.

By contrast, Mancini sustained a total of five cuts, above and below both eyes, which required 48 stitches at a hospital.

"If my left eye looked like that I wouldn't have fought," Bramble said. "I'd have saved it for some other day. But he's tough and he was a lot of determination."

Explaining the close scoring, which surprised many ringside observers, judge James Ronda said it was not so much a matter of what Mancini did but what Bramble did not do.

"Bramble coasted through several rounds. He didn't do much at all in those rounds. He made it much closer than it actually should have been," Ronda said.

Duva agreed. "Bramble was lazy out there at times. Sometimes he wasn't doing as much as I'd like him to have done, and I got on him, but in the end he did what he had to do," the veteran trainer said.

Mancini, who did not attend the

news conference, said after the fight he was undecided whether he would retire. But both his manager and father said they thought he should quit, as he said he would if he lost.

"If it was up to me I'd call a halt to it," said manager Dave Wolfe. Mancini's father, Lenny, a former high-ranking lightweight in the late 1930s and early 1940s, said: "I'd tell him to forget about it."

Bramble said he would next like to meet Hector "Macho" Camacho, the former World Boxing Council (WBC) junior lightweight champion, former WBC lightweight champion Harry Arroyo or International Boxing Federation junior welterweight champion Aaron Pryor.

First, however, Bramble may have to face the WBA's top-ranked contender Tyrone Crawford of the U.S. "I don't like the Crawford fight," Duva said. "There's no doubt in my mind at all that Livingstone will beat him but it's a boring fight. It's a sinking fight and we can get more money for those other guys."

Anger, confusion in wake of abandoned world chess match

LONDON (R) — The sudden and unprecedented cancellation of a five-month match for the world chess title in Moscow has left the international chess community split by controversy and uncertain about the future of its showcase event.

Florencio Campomanes, the President of the International Chess Federation (FIDE), annulled the contest with defending champion Anatoly Karpov leading 5-3 against Garry Kasparov.

The world crown was to have gone to the first player to notch six victories but after 48 games and 40 draws the battle had become

painfully prolonged.

Kasparov had narrowed a daunting 5-0 deficit with two consecutive victories and an obviously tiring world champion summoned Campomanes to put an end to the marathon series.

Campomanes' decision to hold a 24-game rematch has been rebuked by most chess experts who saw the move as a biased effort to rescue an exhausted Karpov.

Under FIDE regulations, the president has absolute power to resolve problems regarded as exceptional.

English grandmaster Raymond Keene made an emergency proposal to declare the players co-champions until a settlement could be made about a future match, a suggestion endorsed by

Donald Schulz, the FIDE representative for the United States.

Campomanes' final judgment

offered no consolation to the challenger and preliminary reports indicate that Karpov will keep his title in the event of a tie and have the right to a return match if he loses, advantages that were discarded in 1963 as being unreasonably weighted in the champion's favour.

There are indications that financial difficulties for the Soviet Chess Federation pressured them to seek a sudden conclusion to the match.

As early as November there were complaints that the steadily escalating costs of the interminable match were straining resources.


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South Korean sports delegation due in Amman

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Sports of the Republic of Korea Yong-Ho Lee is due in Amman on Feb. 26 for a two-day official visit during which he will hold talks with Minister of Youth Hani Al Khasawneh and a number of senior Jordanian officials on means of bolstering cooperation between the two countries in the various fields pertaining to youth and sports issues.

They will also discuss ways of promoting the bilateral sport movement and increasing its effectiveness on various relevant lev-

els. The talks will aim, in general, to the necessity of optimising sports spirit in the existing friendly relations.

Accompanied by a four member delegation and the national Korean soccer team, Dr. Lee will also attend the opening of the Korean photo and traditional handicrafts exhibition which will be inaugurated on Feb. 26 by the Jordanian Minister of Youth.

During their stay in Jordan, the national Korean team will play a friendly match against the national Jordanian soccer team on Feb. 27.

Budd in British team for World Championships

LONDON (AP) — Zola Budd, Britain's South African-born track star, Sunday flew to her homeland to see her sick mother, knowing that an anti-apartheid demonstration had not robbed her of an appearance in next month's World Cross-Country Championships.

Although the South African-born runner failed to win the English national cross-country title on Saturday when protesters forced her to run off the course, British track selectors included her in their team for next month's World Championships in Lisbon.

Twenty-four hours after the incident, which she then described as "disappointing and frightening", the 18-year-old runner said: "My programme will remain the same and this has not put me off cross-country running."

Police reported three arrests arising out of the incident at Birkenhead in north-west England. Track officials feared trouble from demonstrators protesting at South Africa's policy of racial separation, known as apartheid.

Budd was in second place challenging for the lead when she was forced off the course by demonstrators who ran from a section of the 7,000-strong crowd.

While the leader, Welsh runner Angela Tooby, went on to win, Budd was consoled by officials and her coach, Pieter Labuschagne.

Labuschagne recalled: "Zola was upset by the incident and didn't continue because she realised the race could be stopped again and again."

"Out this hasn't changed anything and we will carry on as normal," he said.

Police said two women and a

man will appear in court in about two weeks time in connection with the incident, the latest chapter in the runner's controversial career.

Because of its policy of racial separation, South Africa is banned from international sport and Budd became a British citizen in time for her to compete in the Los Angeles Olympic Games last summer.

A storm of controversy raged when Budd was granted British citizenship and there were minor demonstrations when she ran for the first time in her new country shortly before the Olympics.

At Los Angeles the small, slender runner who usually runs barefoot, reached the final of the 3,000 metres where she was involved in a clash of legs with her idol, the American favourite Mary Decker.

While Decker, now Mary Slaney, crashed out of the race, Budd ran on to finish seventh amid a storm of booing from the pro-Decker spectators in the Los Angeles Coliseum.

Budd returned immediately to her homeland and after said she would run only in South Africa. But faced with the prospect of an international ban if she ran competitively in her homeland, she changed her mind last December.

Since returning to Britain Budd, looking physically stronger, has broken two British records running indoors for the first time, and has won her first cross-country race.

Before flying to Johannesburg Sunday, Budd said she will visit her mother, Tossie, and then fly to the United States to run a road race in Phoenix, Arizona on March 2.

Police said two women and a

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Hungary reforms banking system

BUDAPEST (R) — Communist Hungary is adding a touch of spice to its banking system, introducing an element of competition rarely seen in the Eastern Bloc.

The move does not mark a sudden return to capitalism, but is in line with Hungary's "market socialism" reforms. Hungarian bankers said. These decentralise companies and stress the market place in decision-making over central direction.

Monopoly banks are being broken-up and allowed to compete with each other for business and a host of small financial institutions have sprung up to fund innovations which it is hoped will modernise Hungary's economy.

The theory is that a number of profit-orientated competing banks will lead to a more efficient use of funds at a time when capital for investment is scarce, the bankers said.

"If we want a better allocation of capital we must try every form. As we have less to invest, allocation is more important," said one banker involved in issuing company bonds.

Issuing bonds is just one skill Hungarian bankers must learn in a land famous for its economists but which swept away the apparatus of competitive banking 40 years ago.

Most communist states have only three or four banks, including a central bank, a foreign trade bank and a savings bank for the people.

This was the case until recently in Hungary, where the most important institution was the National Bank of Hungary (NBH), an imposing stone edifice in Budapest. It acted as a central bank with a monopoly on foreign exchange and loans and also channelled state credits to companies and cooperatives.

The NBH has been a major force in Hungary's new economic thinking, arguing that unwieldy industrial monopolies must be broken up into flexible competitive units.

But some influential bankers resisted proposals to split up the NBH itself and end its monopoly of credit. From the beginning of this year a compromise has been in force.

Within the NBH credit-granting functions are handled by two departments, one for firms and cooperatives active in agriculture, the food industry and home trade, the other for those involved in industry, building and transport.

So far this is just an organisational change within the National Bank of Hungary. Managing Director Laszlo Body told Reuters. But the autonomy of the credit departments is set to expand and within five years they will become independent credit banks.

Change is seen everywhere. The Foreign Trade Bank will be allowed to try its hand at domestic business and the NBH's inn-

ovation fund, which provides risk capital and management expertise for new projects, has been converted into a full bank.

In addition, the National Savings Bank, which had a monopoly on banking for the general public, will soon face competition from a savings bank to be formed from rural savings cooperatives, and a post office bank, Mr. Body said.

At first, competition will mean only that the various bodies can compete for business by offering better services and expertise and not by setting more attractive interest rates, which are currently pegged by the National Bank of Hungary.

"In interest rates there is no competition yet because at the start we did not want to cause more confusion than necessary," Mr. Body said.

But from the second half of the year banks will be free to offer credit rates within a range set by the National Bank of Hungary and deposit rates will be free, although influenced by the rate at which banks can borrow from the central bank, as in the West.

Another feature of the new system is that companies can take a bill of payment from a customer, effectively lending it money to pay for goods. Banks can take over these loans, at a price, discount the bills, and rediscount them at the National Bank of Hungary.

Some doubt the changes will

work, saying that a firm with spare cash will rather invest in expansion and new plant that deposit the money at a bank for lending to other companies.

But Mr. Body said tax changes introduced at the start of 1985 make it more attractive for firms to earn high interest on deposits than tie up funds in non-productive investments.

The new Credit Bank of Budapest, formed this year from the NBH branch responsible for firms and cooperatives in the Budapest area, is acting as a guinea pig for the NBH as the first full bank created under the changes, its director Mr. Laszlo Orban said.

He is confident that his bank, which has the right to do business all over the country, can use the skills of its workforce to compete with the existing big banks and the new small institutions.

"Financing needs lots of information and experience. Only this bank has the staff, the experience, the information, the personal connections — that is our real capital," he said.

Mr. Orban, who has worked in the Hungarian International Bank in London, describes how his new institute is, raising bonds for a small company in the provinces that wants to build a service station and motel for international lorry traffic.

"These are the first steps on the surface of the moon," he smiles.

OAPEC nears ruling on Iraqi row with Syria

BAGHDAD (OPECNA) — A ruling on a suit filed by Iraq over the closure of its pipeline through Syria is expected to be announced on March 4 by a judicial tribunal of the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC).

Iraq is confident that the tribunal will rule in its favour.

At its last hearing on Jan. 7, the nine-member judicial body decided to go ahead with considering the dispute after rejecting all Syrian contentions, including a challenge over the tribunal's jurisdiction.

Iraq has asked, as a matter of urgency, for a compulsory order to enable it to resume pumping oil, and is demanding payment of compensation from Syria to cover losses resulting from the unilateral closure of the pipeline in April 1982.

The closure by Syria, which Iraq alleges was in violation of a 1981 agreement between the two OAPEC member countries, has severely affected Iraq's capacity to export its oil.

The agreement governs the operation of the pipeline, which runs from the northern Iraqi oilfields to the Syrian Mediterranean port of Banias and the northern Lebanese port of Tripoli.

Iraq's suit against Syria also includes the confiscation of a 200,000-ton consignment of Iraqi crude at Banias port which had already been sold.

The case has been running for more than two years, during which Syria has tried to block the hearings on the ground that the dispute was political rather than economic, and, consequently, outside the tribunal's competence.

Iraq has consistently maintained that the dispute should be considered within the framework of whether Syria's closure of the pipeline was legitimate or in violation of contractual and legal obligations.

Under the 1981 bilateral agreement, says Iraq, Syria undertook to guarantee a continued flow of Iraqi oil across Syrian territory to the Mediterranean ports.

Until the closure, Iraq pumped 30 per cent of its oil exports through the pipeline, which has an annual capacity of around 120,000 barrels.

The stoppage has cost Iraq some \$20 million a day since April 10, 1982 — or a total loss of \$14 billion so far.

Meanwhile, Iraq has guaranteed itself a high degree of market accessibility through an increased pumping capacity via Turkey and new export outlet projects through Turkish and Saudi Arabian territories. A study is also underway on a projected pipeline through Jordan.

Meanwhile, Iraq now has proven crude reserves of 65 billion barrels and semi-proven reserves of 46 billion barrels as a result of new oil discoveries. Oil Minister Jassim Taki Al Oraibi said recently.

In a newspaper interview here, he said the country's "huge probable reserves" placed it among the world's largest potential oil producers.

The minister noted that Iraq's refining capacity had also been increased in recent years, with new plants being built and existing ones expanded. As a result, domestic demand was now being met, with revenue coming in from exports of surplus by-products.

India orders inquiry into cars black market

NEW DELHI (R) — The Indian government Monday ordered an investigation into reports that cars and station wagons made by a state-owned firm were being sold on the black market for well above listed prices.

The Press Trust of India (PTI) said the probe was ordered by Finance Minister V.P. Singh after he received complaints the cars were being sold at premiums of up to \$8,000.

The vehicles, named after Maruti, the Hindu wind God, are made by Maruti Udyog, a government-owned firm in which Japan's Suzuki Motor Corporation has a 26 per cent holding.

The sleek vehicles stand out from other Indian cars which have designs more than 20 years old and have become prestige items. List prices are about \$4,500.

Turkish trade deficit widens

ANKARA (R) — Turkey's trade deficit with the rest of the world widened last year to \$3.6 billion from \$3.5 billion in 1983, according to provisional figures released Monday by the state statistics institute.

The figures, published by the semi-official Anatolian News Agency, showed exports totalled \$7.1 billion last year after \$5.7 billion in 1983, while imports rose to \$10.7 billion from \$9.2 billion.

Imports last December were worth a provisional \$1.3 billion up from \$979 million in November and \$1.1 billion in December 1983, while exports totalled \$738 million after \$652 million in November and \$674 million a year earlier.

Indonesia fights oil dependency

JAKARTA — Indonesia is to introduce a limited value-added tax (VAT) in April, bringing close to completion the reforms begun with a reorganisation of the country's income tax system at the beginning of last year.

The new tax arrangements form a key element of an ambitious strategy to transform the whole economy to reduce its dependence on oil.

As Asia's largest oil and gas exporter, Indonesia has depended on petroleum to provide three quarters of export earnings and two-thirds of government budget revenues, and this vulnerability has been cruelly exposed by the recent world recession and weak oil market.

In response to the downturn, the government has had to slash consumer subsidies and rephase dozens of major capital intensive projects to save foreign exchange.

It has also adjusted the value of the rupiah, first through a 27.5 per cent devaluation and subsequently through a managed float, which has entailed a steady depreciation against the U.S. dollar.

However, sensing that this stabilisation programme would not go far enough on its own, government economic strategists led by Dr. Ali Wardhana, the coordinating minister for the economy, have sought to reduce the country's dependence on oil through fundamental structural changes.

These have included a major reform of the banking system, a programme of deregulation and the overhaul of the tax system.

The overall aim is to mobilise domestic resources and to boost non-oil revenues, so that the country's development programme can go ahead, if on a reduced scale.

The tax reforms are long overdue, for while Indonesia compares favourably with many developing countries in terms of total tax revenues, the government's non-oil revenues as a share of gross domestic product are low, compared even with the Philippines, India or Pakistan. Its income tax revenues are lower than those of some of the poorest countries in the world.

In fiscal year 1983-84 which ended last April, for example, personal and corporate income tax revenues outside the oil sector amounted to just Rp 1,156 billion, about \$1.2 billion at then prevailing exchange rates.

Less than one-third came from individuals, and the total amounted to just 12 per cent of the corporate tax revenues raised on oil and only 8 per cent of all domestic revenues.

With last year's changes in income tax, personal and corporate income tax revenues outside the oil sector are budgeted to more than double to Rp 2,450 billion in the current fiscal year, and are actually expected to exceed this figure.

In the 1985-86 fiscal year, according to the recent budget, the total is expected to rise another 23 per cent to Rp 3,000 billion, doubling last year's contribution to domestic revenues to 16 per cent.

This is a pointer to the impact of the new income tax laws, which

replaced four separate taxes under the old system with a single tax applied at three different rates — a top rate of 35 per cent on annual incomes above Rp 50 million, 25 per cent on incomes of between Rp 10 million and Rp 50 million and 15 per cent on incomes between about Rp 3 million (the threshold for a family of five) and Rp 10 million.

The changes simplify the tax structure and, while they lower income tax rates (the top corporate rate was previously 15 per cent, the top individual rate 50 per cent), they also broaden the tax base.

An estimated 10-15 per cent of the population will qualify as taxpayers, and it is hoped that there will be a higher degree of compliance.

The transition has been far from easy however partly because of the inexperience of tax officials and partly because of the constant need for clarification of the meaning of the new rules.

One obvious problem, for example, has been the fact that corporations can no longer deduct the cost of fringe benefits. Another has been the abolition of all special incentives for investment, such as tax holidays, in favour of what the government regards as the more attractive incentive of lower rates.

Implementation has nevertheless been improving with time, and revenues are now said to be running ahead of budget for both personal and corporate income taxes.

The introduction of VAT is

expected to be something of a nightmare.

VAT will replace the former sales tax, which was a complicated turnover tax with seven different rates, and will be applied at a flat rate of 10 per cent. But the government, in a typically realistic way, has kept its horizons low.

In the first instance the tax will be applied only to the manufacturing sector — the wholesale, retail, services, construction and export sectors are all excluded. The tax will also be applied to all refined oil products, raising their prices a straight 10 per cent.

This move alone — which follows swinging increases in recent years as consumer subsidies were cut — is expected to raise one-third of the budgeted VAT revenue in 1985-86 or Rp 1,600 billion. Officials therefore expect the problem reaching this target, as revenues from sales tax for the current year are projected at about Rp 960 billion.

The improvements so far have not been achieved without cost, the most significant of which has been a plunge in foreign and domestic investment. Officials acknowledge that this is at least partly the result of the new tax system and its confusions.

Reduction of the country's dependence on oil and gas revenues nevertheless hinges critically on the success or failure of its new tax system. That in turn depends on the effectiveness of its implementation and the extent to which the public identifies with it. There is still a long way to go — Financial Times news feature.

THE BETTER HALF. By Harris

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles. One letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

YOWLL
LIRLT
HERNET
DINTUC

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

ANSWER: THE [] TO []

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: ICING AHEAD IMPACT CLOVER
Answer: Charged with something shocking—ELECTRIC

Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — The market closed lower after a dull session with the FTSE 100 share index down 12.8 at 1,268.7.

Among leading issues ICI shed 10p to 844, BTR eased 14p to 630 and BOC dropped 9p to 296 while GEC moved against the trend up 4p to 206. Insurances were weak with losses up to 30p ahead of the dividend season with sentiment dampened following the recent lower earnings reported from U.S. underwriters.

Government bonds lost up to 1/2 point as sterling eased below its initial higher trend while gold shares were firm with the steady bullion price.

Banks lost up to 8p while in oils, B.P. eased 5p to 565 and Shell shaded 3p to 778.

Fleet Holdings rose 7p to a high of 272 after better than expected interim figures. It then eased 268 on profit-taking. Aiken Hume was 11p higher at 192 at one stage, on speculation of a possible bid from Fleet, before moving to 188.

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Monday.

One sterling	1.1012/22	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.3401/04	Canadian dollars
	3.2765/80	West German marks
	3.7095/7115	Dutch guilders
	2.7880/95	Swiss francs
	65.95/98	Belgian francs
	10.0275/0325	French francs
	2027.0/8.0	Italian lire
	259.10/25	Japanese yen
	4.2650/2750	Swedish crowns
	9.4050/4150	Norwegian crowns
	11.7375/7475	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	304.50/305.00	U.S. dollars

YOUR DAILY Horoscope from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY, FEB. 19, 1985

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Finish up the unusual conditions you have put in motion and prepare to start afresh. Avoid feeling you have more to do than is possible and use the good influences to get ahead.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) You can complete that venture quite early and then you have time to look into something else that is of a practical nature.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Be patient if there is a delay in some business affair, and later you can get together with good friends.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) See if you can expand your objectives in the morning and then you can get at the work ahead of you and make big advancement.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Get your bills paid and handle correspondence before you go after new projects that appeal to you.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Come to a fine agreement with one who has been unresponsive to you, and then get to work on your mutual project.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Get that new system working efficiently at your job, then you can meet with partners and come to a better understanding.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) You understand how to cut down on entertainment expenses, and then get right at the work ahead of you and do it efficiently.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Take care of that condition at home in the morning, and then you can work on some new project in a positive way.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Be particularly careful in speaking to others and in motion in the morning, and then the evening can be very happy.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Get at financial affairs you started yesterday and get good results in the morning, then handle correspondence at hand.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Go after what you desire in a positive way in the morning, and then you can handle practical matters well.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Early you know how to be more modern and thereby get ahead faster in your career, then later go after your personal aims.

THE Daily Crossword By Kathryn Righter

ACROSS

- Tisane
- Trimmed
- Flower holder
- Border in heraldry
- River to the Rhine
- Epithet of Athena
- Portions
- crustaceans
- Acquiesced
- Residue
- Avastive bird
- Begone!
- Strengthened seam
- Stain
- Card game
- Woman counselor
- Lamb
- rule (usually)
- Mythological creature
- Acquire
- Solar deity
- "— of Wrath"
- Fr. seasons
- Camelot character
- Uncommon
- Island
- Notable
- Home of St. Francis
- Isle
- Daughter of Cadmus
- Members of the hawk family
- Not so much
- Church desk
- Tale
- Consumed
- DOWN
- Roman garment
- Cupid
- Vestments
- Plebeian
- Balance sheet
- Items
- Peruse
- See eagle
- Subtracting
- Gentlemen's middle name
- Notable
- Facile
- Tragedy by Sophocles
- Daughter of Cadmus
- Alfonso's queen
- Auctioneer's call
- Slab
- Heron's cousin
- Philippine island
- Finch coin
- Gr. letter
- Son of Jacob
- Demi—
- Mountain in Crete
- Footnote
- Impudent
- Seaport in Scot.
- Top grade
- Confugal
- Earthquake: prof.
- Temper
- Advocate: suff.
- Impudent
- Exclamation of vexation
- Turk. title
- Pillowcase
- Service tree
- Division word
- Notion
- Garnment
- Being: Lat.
- River island

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved.

ROMP PAIR SYRIAT
AWAY PAIR PEARL
SARIT EDUM UNITE
PHILATELIST LEA
ANDE STINE
LEND UTESIS
POINCEAINT KNIFE
AGOS GABRI ENAM
REALLY REIN AGUI
REASON OVAL
TREAT EPODE
MAP PETROLOGIST
ECOLE LUDIST
USUAL ALO SIGHT
TEMPO SIRE TOTE

U.S. pulls out from ANZUS defence talks

CANBERRA (R) — The United States has pulled out of an ANZUS defence alliance meeting on military communications due to have started in Sydney Monday, a Defence Ministry spokesman said.

The meeting of U.S., Australian and New Zealand defence officials was cancelled, the spokesman said.

The withdrawal was a further U.S. response to New Zealand's ban on visits by nuclear-powered or armed warships which earlier this month put the South Pacific pact under fresh strain.

The cancellation was announced as New Zealand's Prime Minister David Lange said he would fly to the United States and Britain next week to defend his Labour government's stand on nuclear warships.

His government said on Saturday that Washington has cancelled an anti-submarine exercise involving a New Zealand reconnaissance aircraft in Hawaii at the end of the month.

The Reagan administration has ordered a review of all aspects of U.S. ties with New Zealand under the ANZUS pact but has not said this would mean the cancellation

of nearly 20 exercises planned with New Zealand this year.

Mr. Lange told a press conference: "I will be moving... to put the record straight about our commitment to (the U.S.), our concern that the disarmament talks proceed and our commitment to the ANZUS alliance, so that no-one there need think there is some kind of maverick action here in the South Pacific."

Mr. Lange also said he expected the Reagan administration to cause Wellington more embarrassment over the warship ban. The New Zealand cabinet, at its regular weekly meeting Monday, reaffirmed the nuclear policy and Mr. Lange said he would not hold a referendum to test domestic support for his stand.

"We are not going to change that policy," he said.

His comments followed an opinion poll which showed that while most New Zealanders supported the ban, 83 per cent wanted a referendum on the issue.

Mr. Lange's staff told Reuters the New Zealand leader would speak in Los Angeles next Tuesday during a specially arranged 27-hour stopover en route to Britain where he will speak in a debate at Oxford University.

But Mr. Lange told reporters he did not expect the United States to "pull the rug out from under New Zealand."

He added: "They might polish the lino (floor) a bit rather and hope that I execute a rather unsteady glide across it."

There would be no substantial defence or economic retaliation from the United States, he said. A poll in Wellington's Dominion newspaper showed 48 per cent supported the ban, with 42 per cent against and 10 per cent undecided.

It also showed 56 per cent of New Zealanders expected the policy to damage export trade.

The poll, the first survey of attitudes since the ban took effect three weeks ago, showed 78 per cent support for ANZUS but Mr. Lange told reporters the pact was not in danger, despite the cancellations.



WOMEN PROTEST: Indian women protesters march through the streets of Bhopal to demand closure of the Union Carbide plant and greater relief for survivors of the Dec. 3 poison gas leak which killed more than 2,000 people. Many of the women were widowed by the disaster (AP wirephoto)

Chernenko profile kept high in Pravda

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet Communist Party daily Pravda published a review Monday of a new book by President Konstantin Chernenko, who has not appeared in public since Dec. 27 and is acknowledged by Soviet officials to be ill.

The review of the book, which collects Mr. Chernenko's speeches and articles since February last year, was the latest thrust in a Soviet media campaign to keep the ailing president's name in the public eye.

Last week the state media gave prominence to speeches made by Politburo members in which they praised the policies pursued by the Communist Party under Mr. Chernenko's leadership, and they highlighted letters issued in his name on nuclear arms issues.

Mr. Chernenko, 73, said by Western medical experts to suffer from a respiratory ailment, is due to appear in public next Friday to deliver a speech at a candidate in elections to the legislature of the Russian Federation, largest of the 15 Soviet republics.

Western diplomats said there would be grounds for serious concern about the president's condition if he failed to appear.

Mr. Chernenko's health became the focus of attention early last week when the Kremlin cancelled a planned meeting between him and visiting Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu.

Soviet officials denied a meeting had been scheduled, but the Greeks contradicted this and attributed the cancellation to the state of Mr. Chernenko's health.

Senior Western diplomats attributed credibility to a Greek newspaper report last week which said the cancellation was caused by a relapse of Mr. Chernenko's ailment which forced him to enter hospital.

Men rob Egyptian consulate in H. Kong

HONG KONG (AP) — Two knife-wielding men robbed the Egyptian consulate in Hong Kong Monday of 9,000 Hong Kong dollars (\$1,154), police reported. Police said the robbers entered the visa section of the consulate and threatened two local female staff before escaping with the money. No one was injured. Consulate officials were not available for comment.

Iran cracks down on Western fashions

TEHRAN (R) — Tehran authorities have closed 150 boutiques in the capital and ordered boutique owners to report to revolutionary committees in an apparent crackdown on Western fashions. One official statement said the shops had been closed for offending Islamic values by filling their windows with vulgar clothes. The move drew approval from local newspapers and members of parliament, with Tehran daily Islamic Republic saying the campaign should be spread to manufacturers and distributors of "decadent" clothes. In a message to the city prosecutor, members of the Majlis (parliament) said: "We insist that the manifestation of the decadent imported culture be severely dealt with and that the city of Tehran... and other cities be completely cleansed of these stains of shame."

Woman outwits taxman

STOCKHOLM, Sweden (AP) — The taxman showed keen interest in her money from time to time, but her neighbours in the tiny hamlet of Hackvad in central Sweden reportedly never took much notice of the unassuming old spinster. All that changed during the weekend when it was disclosed that Miss Dagny Lauren before her death last year had willed the cash-transferable part of her 1.5 million kronor (\$163,000) fortune to be split among all 165 residents of Hackvad in the age bracket 20-65 years. Hackvad's pennies from heaven amount to \$650 to each resident that qualifies. The split means that the tax authorities lose an estimated \$65,000 as each beneficiary only gets slightly more than the minimum taxable amount. Holger Nilsson, the caretaker of Miss Lauren's farm and the only person left in on the secret, told Aftonbladet that one of Miss Lauren's motives was to evade Sweden's notoriously high inheritance tax. "She got the idea to split up the money after her brother died and the taxman took half of the 300,000 kronor (\$32,000) he left behind," he was quoted as saying. Miss Lauren died late last year at age 83. She had no remaining kin.

Hong Kong's first AIDS victim dies

HONG KONG (R) — A man believed to be Hong Kong's first victim of the killer disease AIDS has died, health officials said. They told reporters the 46-year-old Chinese died in hospital. He was not identified. Health officials previously said he was admitted to hospital last September after spending some time in the United States, where most of the world's cases of AIDS have been recorded. Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome, or AIDS, destroys the body's natural defences and is transmitted sexually or through contaminated blood transfusions. There is no known cure.

'Kiss of life' denied to gays

LONDON (R) — Firemen have been warned against giving mouth-to-mouth resuscitation to possible homosexuals in a further sign of alarm spreading in Britain over the killer virus AIDS. The weekend warning from the Fire Brigades Union followed worried inquiries from firemen about the dangers of contracting AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) from saliva when giving the "kiss of life". It coincided with a nationwide alert at prisons after the government confirmed that four inmates and a jail official are being examined as suspected victims of the disease. The government's leading health advisers say that war is beginning to border on AIDS hysteria in Britain is out of proportion to a relatively remote risk of infection. That did not stop one barkeeper in Liverpool, northwest England, putting up signs this month barring homosexuals.

Sri Lankan Navy fires on fleeing Tamil refugees

NEW DELHI (AP) — Sri Lankan Navy troops fired on Tamil civilians fleeing strife-torn Sri Lanka by boat on Monday, wounding a number of them, the United Nations (UN) quoted the victims as saying.

The news agency said it was the first time that the Sri Lankan troops opened fire on refugees since a new exodus of members of the Tamil minority began Feb. 4.

The arrival of about 100 boat refugees Monday increased to 3,534 the number of Tamils who have fled their homeland since Feb. 4. UNI quoted officials as saying in Rameswaram town, where most of the refugees have been sheltered in camps.

UNI said Sri Lankan naval patrols opened fire from a distance after the refugee-carrying boats entered Indian territorial waters.

China rejects U.S. criticism

PEKING (R) — Peking Monday rejected as groundless and improper a U.S. State Department report which said China restricted basic human rights.

In its annual report to Congress on international human rights last week, the State Department said China's ruling Communist Party placed comprehensive restrictions on rights such as freedom of speech, the press, religious association and travel.

But a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman said Monday: "The U.S. State Department has made groundless and improper comments on the domestic affairs of China."

Walesa pledges to test government threat

WARSAW (R) — A Polish government threat to arrest Solidarity Chairman Lech Walesa will be tested this week after he pledged to continue preparations for national protests against food price increases.

A public prosecutor informed Mr. Walesa at the weekend that he risked charges carrying a five-year prison sentence for his leadership of an illegal trade union.

Mr. Walesa told 1,000 supporters in the Baltic port of Gdansk Sunday that his response would be "a general counter offensive" against the rises due in March.

"I am going to work tomorrow and irrespective of whether I am arrested or not, everyone knows what he must do on Feb. 28... it must be a success," he declared.

Solidarity has called for protests, including a 15-minute general strike, on that day in its first appeal for industrial action by Polish workers for 18 months.

Mr. Walesa was summoned after police raided a Solidarity meeting he attended in Gdansk to plan the protest. He was allowed to go free but seven activists were charged with illegal activity and three are under arrest.

Opposition sources said that following the prosecutor's threat, police would be obliged to take action against Mr. Walesa if he continued to hold strategy meetings with colleagues.

He has been summoned for questioning on a number of previous occasions but has not been detained since he was released from 11 months' internment after Solidarity was suppressed under martial law in 1981.

Diplomats said his arrest would anger the church and Western governments which have been courted by the Polish authorities since an amnesty for political prisoners last year.

The government has decided to act sharply against Solidarity over the strike although the union has found it increasingly difficult to mobilise public support in recent months.

The food price rises, whose size has not been announced, are the first for 14 months and have not aroused significant public controversy.

Opposition sources said the stern reaction could have been motivated by the union's tactic of a split strike whose effect will be difficult to monitor.

Seoul announces major cabinet shakeup

SEOUL (R) — President Chun Doo Hwan carried out a major reshuffle of the South Korean government Monday following successes by a new opposition party in last week's elections.

Mr. Chun, a former army general, appointed Lho Shin-Yong as prime minister in place of the ailing Chin Ie-Chong.

Mr. Chun dropped Information Minister Lee Jin-Hie, said by diplomats to be held partly responsible for the bad press South Korea received abroad when dissident Kim Dae-Jung and a group of Americans accompanying him home from exile were roughed up by police at Seoul Airport on Feb. 8.

But diplomats said the main reason for the shakeup in Mr. Chun's cabinet was the strong showing at the polls of the newly-formed New Korea Democratic Party (NKDP).

The NKDP, which has the blessing of Mr. Kim and other dissidents, won 67 of the 276 seats in the National Assembly. It acquired another Monday when an independent joined the party.

Mr. Chun's ruling Democratic Justice Party (DJP) held its majority with 148 seats but ran second to the NKDP in the main cities.

Mr. Chun said Monday his new government would pay attention to the wishes of the people expressed in the elections.

DJP sources said the party had urged Mr. Chun to lift a ban on political activity by Mr. Kim and 13 others.

But Mr. Kim told Reuters that even if the ban were lifted he would still be barred from political activities because of a 20-year jail sentence for sedition still hanging over him.

Mr. Chun retained his key economic ministers, reflecting confidence in the continued surge of the South Korean economy, one of the fastest developing in the world.

He also kept Foreign Minister Lee Won-Kyung whom diplomats said had created a good impression overseas by his moderate and intelligent approach.

Six unsuccessful candidates of the Democratic Korea Party and about 150 supporters clashed with riot police in central Seoul, witnesses said.

The protesters said the six would have won seats but for what they called widespread vote-buying, influence peddling and other irregularities.

The 30-minute protest was broken up by 100 riot police who grabbed and smashed placards saying "out from parliament those who were illegally elected" and "nullify corrupt elections". There were no immediate reports of injuries or detentions.

At a rally of NKDP parliamentarians, party President Yi Min-U called on Mr. Chun to announce plans to further democracy in South Korea and change the constitution to allow direct presidential elections.

Mr. Chun, a retired general, has repeatedly promised to stand down when his seven-year presidential term ends in 1988, but Mr. Kim and other prominent dissidents say they fear he will hand power to another former soldier.

Vietnamese shell rebels, cross into Thailand

ARANYAPRATHET, Thailand (R) — Vietnamese troops crossed briefly into Thailand in hot pursuit of Khmer Rouge rebels during fighting near the Thai border Monday, Thai military officers said.

A Thai villager was injured when three mortar shells landed in Klong Nam Sai, 12 kilometres south of the border town of Aranyaprathet, they said.

Part of a 300-man Vietnamese force crossed into Thailand at Klong Nam Sai but was repulsed by Thai troops, they said. They gave no other details of the fighting.

But they said 16 Vietnamese soldiers claiming to be defectors were captured in the past 24 hours inside Thailand opposite the Phnom Malai area, headquarters of the Peking-backed Khmer Rouge until it was overrun last Friday.

U.S. Assistant Secretary of Defence Richard Armitage, who arrived in Bangkok Sunday night, toured the border area Monday.

Thai officials said they briefed him on their fear that the fighting in western Kampuchea might spill over into Thailand.

In China Communist Party chief Hu Yaobang has toured the tense Sino-Vietnamese border and congratulated Chinese frontier troops for beating back Vietnamese incursions, the New China News Agency (NCNA) said Monday.

It said Mr. Hu told a border guard unit in Yunnan province last week that China remained determined "to remove the threat posed by the Vietnamese authorities against the security of its border regions and safeguard peace in South East Asia."

MANILA (R) — President Ferdinand Marcos has ordered the release of a 32-year-old woman held in a Philippine military jail for more than four years after admitting membership of the banned Communist Party, court officials said Monday.

Mr. Marcos also ordered government prosecutors to drop charges against Doris Baffrey, accused of involvement with a Communist group blamed for a series of bombings in and around Manila in 1980.

Ms. Baffrey, divorced wife of a U.S. peace corps worker, was accused of planting a bomb which exploded during a convention of the Association of American Travel Agents.

A court ordered her release on bail in 1982 but she was kept in jail.

After almost a year in prison, Ms. Baffrey pleaded guilty to charges of being a Communist Party member, which carried a maximum term of six months. But the military later filed new charges against her.

"I am glad. It has been so long that I have been communing with the walls and the barred wire. I have waited too long," Ms. Baffrey told reporters.

Meanwhile Philippine Air Force Commander Vicente Piccio, Monday denied laxity in guarding 22 of 26 men accused of involvement in the murder of opposition leader Benigno Aquino.

Marcos orders release of jailed Communist woman

"The absolutely untrue" when asked at a special hearing about press reports saying many of the accused had been seen wandering around camp armed and unescorted.

The Ombudsman's court hearing was held two days before the trial was due to start of the 25 soldiers and one civilian accused in the August 1983 murder of Sen. Aquino and his alleged assassin, Rolando Galman.

Gen. Piccio was given custody of the 22 — mostly air force men — after prison officials said local jails were too crowded to take them. Three accused are free on bail and another is in the custody of presidential security command.

The hearing was called on a petition by Galman family lawyer Lupino Lazaro, who asked that the court reverse its ruling which put the 23 men in military custody.

The hearing was adjourned until March 1.

Among those free on bail is Gen. Fabian Ver. He went on leave as armed forces chief of staff after he was named as an accomplice in the Aquino-Galman murder.

Gen. Piccio told the court that before the men were charged they were allowed to move around the air force base outside Manila without guards.

But since being formally arraigned, they were under guard at all times and were not allowed to leave the camp except in extreme cases.

Pakistan arrests almost all opposition leaders

ISLAMABAD (R) — Pakistan's military government, in a preemptive swoop against opponents, have arrested all but one of the leaders of opposition parties boycotting a general election next week.

Police put under house arrest four moderate opposition leaders in Karachi Monday and jailed a fifth in Lahore. Opposition sources reported at least 20 other arrests Sunday night and Monday.

The only prominent figure still free, Asghar Khan of the Tehrik-I-Istiqal Party, had extra police surveillance around his house Sunday night.

The government began rounding up opposition leaders and party activists in late January after the 11-party Movement for the Restoration of Democracy (MRD) voted to boycott the election on Monday and provincial polls three days later.

"Arresting party leaders is a form of election rigging," Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, acting head of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP), told Reuters by telephone from his Karachi home where he is now confined.

Mr. Jatoi, earlier tipped as a possible prime minister before peace talks between the government and MRD broke down, said he hoped the people would not accept the results of the elections.

The government, which banned mass rallies and public debate during the campaign, agreed Monday to demands by non-Muslim candidates for free radio and television time to address their supporters, the official Associated Press of Pakistan (APP) reported.

South Africa acquits Roman Catholic archbishop

PRETORIA (R) — South Africa's most senior Roman Catholic clergyman, Archbishop Denis Hurley, was Monday acquitted on charges of defaming the police after the state said he was misquoted.

Hurley, president of the Southern African Catholic Bishop's Conference, had been charged under the police act for an alleged statement in 1983 that a police unit had committed atrocities in Namibia (South West Africa).

The prosecution said in a statement it had obtained a tape recording of the press conference at which he was alleged to have made remarks, and that it was clear that what he was quoted as saying was different from what he actually said.

Hurley, Archbishop of Durban, faced a maximum penalty of five years in jail and fines of 10,000 rand (\$5,000) under the police act.

The act bans publication of untimely about the police without reasonable ground for believing they are accurate.

Hurley said Saturday he had been told that he would be acquitted, but added that he was disappointed as he thought his lawyers had an excellent case and were looking forward to presenting the evidence they had collected.

Senior foreign clergymen, including Bishop David Konstant representing Cardinal Basil Hume of Westminster, England, were in court Monday to support Hurley.

The black Anglican Bishop of Johannesburg, Nobel Peace Prize winner Desmond Tutu, was also present and all the churchmen wore badges saying "We support Hurley."

Meanwhile South African gold mining company said Monday it had fired 794 black workers who went on strike at one of its mines last week.

Gold Fields of South Africa Ltd. said the sacked workers failed to report for work during the strike at East Driefontein Mine west of Johannesburg. It said the situation was normal Monday.

About 100 workers were injured, one seriously, when police opened fire with birdshot on a crowd of strikers at the mine on Friday.

Gold Fields said it was not clear what caused the strike. Cyril Ramaphosa, head of the National Union of Mineworkers, said the men were protesting about the quality of food, the handling of disciplinary cases and assaults by white miners on blacks.

In another incident two black women were killed in a clash between a crowd and police during weekend violence in South African black townships, police said Monday.

A spokesman said the women died at Katshehong near Johannesburg when guards at a councillor's house opened fire on a stone-throwing crowd.

In Atteridgeville near Pretoria, a group petrol-bombed a policeman's house injuring three men asleep in one room, he said.

Police in Kroonstad, 200 kilometres south west of Johannesburg, opened fire with rubber bullets on blacks storming a shopping centre.

Near Port Elizabeth in Cape province, riot police fired birdshot to disperse youths throwing stones at a police station.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
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2-TO-1 IS GOOD ODDS

Neither vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH

♠ 109
♥ A75
♦ Q74
♣ AK765

EAST

♠ K64
♥ K10864
♦ 95
♣ QJ8

SOUTH

♠ AQJ7
♥ 109
♦ AK63
♣ 93

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
1♣	Pass	2♣	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

Opening lead: Six of ♣.

Playing the percentages doesn't necessarily guarantee you will make your contract. However, don't ignore the percentages unless you have a good reason for doing so.

South had a difficult rebid because of North's two-over-one response. He decided not to show his spades because that would suggest an unbalanced hand. Even though his heart stopper left something to be desired, two no trump was the more descriptive rebid.

West led fourth-best of his longest and strongest suit, declarer played low from dummy, and the contract was lost there and then. East won the queen and returned the three to West's 10 and the ace. When the spade finesse failed, West took his heart tricks for down one.

If the spade finesse succeeds, declarer has nine sure tricks. If the hearts are 4-3, the defenders can never get more than four tricks — three hearts and the king of spades. Thus, the only distribution that declarer has to worry about is where West holds five hearts and the king of spades.

From the Rule of Eleven, declarer knows that East has only one heart higher than the six. Is it the 10, queen or king?

If it is the 10, declarer must play low from the table. If it is a higher honor, declarer can block the suit by rising with the ace at trick one. Acing the two cases equal, making it a pure guess which card declarer should play from the board at the first trick?

Not at all. There is only one case where West could hold five hearts headed by the K-Q and East has the 10. But East could have either the king doubleton or the queen doubleton, and West five to the other honors. Therefore, East is twice as likely to have a doubleton queen or king than the doubleton 10. The ace of hearts at trick one is clearly the right play.